

AMERICAN FARMER.

VOL. XII.

BALTIMORE, JULY, 1856.

No. 1.

THE GUANO CONVENTION.

In accordance with public notice, this Convention assembled at the Smithsonian Institution building, in the city of Washington, on the 10th June, in conformity with the recommendation of the Convention assembled at Wilmington, Del. in March last, for the purpose of consultation in regard to the present high price of Peruvian guano, and the course most advisable for the farming interest to pursue to relieve themselves of the onerous regulations to which, as purchasers of this fertilizer, they are subjected.

Soon after 12 o'clock noon, the Convention placed H. G. S. Key, Esq. of St. Mary's county, Maryland, in the chair, on taking which that gentleman thanked the Convention for the honor done him, and said that though he had had the benefit of but little parliamentary experience, still that little should be exerted in the service of the meeting, and in preserving that peace and harmony which in such assemblies was so desirable.

Mr. H. H. Cocke, of Prince George county, Virginia, moved that, in order to obtain all the light and information possible, the Convention invite the Agricultural Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to take seats in the Convention; which was seconded and carried.

Dr. W. R. Holt, of N. C., H. H. Cocke, of Va., John Jones, of Delaware, and Dr. Brown, of N. Y. were appointed Vice Presidents, and Albert Emory, of Md., Secretary.

After the organization had been completed, Mr. Calvert moved that Mr. Sands, the chairman of the Committee appointed by the Delaware Convention, report to the Convention the result of the interview of the Committee with the President of the U. S. in accordance with the resolution adopted by that body, "to wait upon his Excellency, and to request that some measures be taken by our Government, to induce the Peruvian Government to permit American vessels without restriction, to load with guano at the Chincha or other Peruvian Islands—a reasonable price being paid to the authorities in Peru," and that an adjourned meeting of the Convention be held "in the city of Washington, on Tuesday, the 10th day of June next, and that the different Agricultural Societies throughout the U. States, favorable to reducing the price of guano, be invited to send delegates thereto."

Mr. Sands, in obedience to the call, arose, and remarked, that a communication, a copy of which he would read, had been presented to the President in advance of the visit of the Committee, stating the object of the visit, and the nature and present position of the guano trade. He then read the following letter:

To his Excellency the

President of the United States :

SIR :—

The undersigned, Committee appointed by a

Convention of farmers and landholders interested in the use of Peruvian Guano, which assembled at Wilmington, Del., in March last, to consult upon the subject of the trade therein, and of the necessity of some concerted action in regard to its future use, have been directed to wait upon the President to ask that the aid of the government be extended to the farming and planting interests of the country, by procuring some change in the present mode of supplying them with an article that has become, to several of the middle States, almost a necessary of life.

The Committee are aware of the delicacy attendant upon any efforts to accomplish the end in view—still they conceive that the immense and yearly increasing interests involved will be a sufficient apology for urging that a vigorous effort be made to induce the Peruvian government to establish a more effectual system in the trade, whereby the consumers of the article may be enabled to obtain their supplies on more acceptable terms than are now afforded them.

The growing importance of the trade may be seen by the annexed statement of the amount imported into the port of Baltimore alone, the principal market for it, for the six years ending the first of June, 1855, viz :

1849	- -	2,700 tons.	1852	- -	25,500 tons.
1850	- -	6,800 "	1853	- -	32,152 "
1851	- -	25,000 "	1854	- -	58,927 "

The cost of the same for the last year at the said port amounting to upwards of 3,000,000 of dollars.

This subject for years has attracted the attention of the farmers of this country, and repeated and earnest efforts have been made to induce our government to endeavor to effect some change in the system adopted by Peru; and hopes have been held out from time to time by that country, that our earnest appeals would be heeded, and promises were made to our government and people, which so far from having resulted in relaxing their system, have fastened it more thoroughly and in a more odious manner upon us.

To enable your Excellency to see at a glance how far the pledges of the Peruvian government officials have been fulfilled, we would call your attention to the following statement of facts, by which it is proved that either through the disobedience of its agents or by the want of good faith in itself, the result of their operations has tended to increase the price and to harass the consumers by the frequency of the changes, and the close which are thrown in their way.

On the 26th April, 1850, the Hon. Secretary of State addressed a letter to our minister at Lima, urging him to bring about an abolition of the monopoly of the export of guano from Peru, which was then enjoyed by British subjects—and remarking, that the measure would be a very desirable one for us, very justly adds—that "no

can be ascertained that the Peruvian government would derive a far greater revenue, if all nations were allowed to export the article upon the payment of a moderate duty. You will accordingly (says the Secretary) present this view of the subject to the Peruvian Minister for foreign affairs, in such a manner as in your judgment will be best calculated to effect the object desired, and will endeavor by all proper means, to prevent the formation of any new contract by that government with the citizens or subjects of other nations, which may tend to enhance the price of the article to the consumer, or prevent vessels of the United States from carrying it to other parts of the world, upon the same terms which may be accorded to the vessels of any other nation."

On the 17th of June, of the same year, the Secretary also called the attention of Mr. Tirado, the Minister of Peru, at Washington, to the consideration of the subject, and urged similar reasons to those contained in his dispatch to our Minister at Lima, why the Peruvian government for its own advantage, should adopt the suggestions made, by which a far greater revenue would be derived by that government, and a more abundant and cheaper supply realized by the consumers of this and other countries—with the additional assurance that "a free trade in guano between the United States and Peru would materially strengthen the good understanding between the two countries"—a matter of no little importance, as subsequent events have proved—the many vexatious and unnecessary restrictions, in addition to the increase of the price of the article, by the Peruvian government, or its agents in this country, having created a most inveterate feeling in the minds of a very large and influential class of our citizens towards that country.

The Secretary in the same dispatch to Mr. Tirado expresses the hope that Peru will take the same view of the matter as that presented by him to Mr. Clay and himself, and that it will, "as soon as it can, compatibly with its honor, endeavor to cast off all shackles which may now be imposed upon the trade, and to prevent their imposition at any future time." These suggestions were received in the most friendly spirit by the Peruvian Minister, who after presenting a statement of the nature of the existing contracts or engagements of his government in respect to this trade, makes the following promise, to adopt, "as the truest mode of subserving its own interests," the suggestions of our Secretary of State.

Mr. Tirado says: "Happily, as the time approaches for the final liquidation of the mortgage consequent upon the disbursements and advances which have hitherto controuled the sale of guano in other parts of the world, I flatter myself with the hope, that as your excellency desires it, the day is not very far when the United States, as well as the rest of the world, will be supplied with guano by the government of Peru directly—said guano being sold in Peruvian ports to those that go there in search of it, or a moderate duty being imposed upon the exportation of the same; and so well settled is this purpose—calculated as the design is, to make the interests of the Agricultural world harmonize with those of the country where the article is found,—that in the arrangement made last year for periodical payments of the loans raised in London, by Peru, to defray the expenses of her war for independence, the government would not listen, to the solicitations of

the holders of the bonds, who proposed receiving payment in the same way as the consignees of the guano, by taking half the clear receipts of this article, being disposed to assume all responsibility; said government declaring positively that it would not be understood, by that clause, as binding itself to sell guano through the medium of consignments, and by remitting to the markets where it was in demand, because as I am instructed, its views are materially to enlarge the sphere of consumption, by enabling consumers to buy it at the lowest possible rates of price, and by placing itself in a condition to supply the demands of those who come there in search of it, affording them every facility of obtaining it, such as your excellency has intimated in your note, BEING THE TRUEST MODE OF SUBSERVING ITS OWN INTERESTS."

So anxious did Mr. Tirado seem to meet the views of our government and people upon this subject, that he solicited advice from those calculated to give it, as to the most satisfactory manner in which the supplies could be furnished for this country, until the contemplated change alluded to in his letter to the Secretary of State should take place, and volunteered his services to communicate any such information to his government.

During the same year, the State Agricultural Society of Maryland appointed a delegation to wait upon the then President of the U. S. to urge upon his attention, the growing importance of the subject of this trade, and in an interview with his Excellency, the Committee were "assured of the sincere desire of the government to carry out the views of the Society," which were identical with those presented in the preceding correspondence. Could the arrangement alluded to be consummated, no doubt can be entertained that the Peruvian government could speedily be released from the heavy burdens under which it labors, in regard to their pecuniary obligations with foreign capitalists, the consumers of their guano increased to an almost unlimited extent, and the commodity furnished at a much less cost. But so far from having disengaged herself from the shackles by which she was entrallled at the time of the correspondence alluded to, she is evidently retrograding in the scale of nations—and notwithstanding the increase of the supply and price of her guano to its purchasers, the late accounts from her capital induce the belief that her treasury is bankrupt, and that for the security of her bondholders, and the payment of the interest due them, the British admiral was reported to have received orders to seize upon the Guano Islands, the main source of revenue to the country. This state of things is no doubt predicated upon the manner in which the government has conducted this trade, and by the enormous charges for commissions and interest, the losses by shipwreck, and from other causes attendant upon a business in which so many parties are interested in increasing its expenses, whereby, as Mr. Tirado stated in his reply to the Secretary of State, there had been accounts of sales rendered "exhibiting both loss and damage." Whereas by selling it in Peruvian ports to those that go there in search of it, as proposed by Mr. Tirado, the government of Peru would be enabled to realize a certain revenue, far greater than she can under any circumstances secure under the present system, as she would be relieved from the heavy expenses alluded to, and the profits secured by her servants and agents, by which princely fortunes

are obtained, would flow into her own impoverished coffers.

The change intimated by Mr. Tirado, of taking the controul of the trade from the management of "the holders of the bonds" of Peru was accomplished finally, but so far from effecting any improvement in the manner of conducting the business in this country, by those into whose custody it has been placed, it is daily becoming more intolerable—and it has been shown that the Agents of the government, so far from fulfilling the pledges made by themselves, in behalf of their employers, to keep the prices at as low a point as possible, and to enable the consumers to escape from the extortions of speculators, have lent themselves to encouraging those very exactions which they had directly pledged the Peruvian government to use every means to avert.

This subject was again brought to the attention of the government, by the Committee from the Maryland State Agricultural Society, in a letter dated 4th May, 1853. In reply, the Committee were assured by the Hon. the Secretary of State, "that the Department appreciated the importance of cheapening the price of guano to consumers of that article in the U. S., and would endeavor to accomplish that object by means of further negotiations with the government of Peru," and the Committee were informed "that instructions for that purpose were some time since forwarded to the U. S. Minister at Lima," and in a personal interview with the Committee the Hon. Secretary promised them that every proper opportunity should be embraced to secure from Peru such a trade in guano as would meet the views and wishes of the agriculturists of our country.

Since that period, the impositions practised upon the farmers and planters have continued to increase, and so far from the pledges of the Peruvian government being carried out to protect their customers from speculators, they have directly aided, through their agents, in rendering the trade in many respects more irksome than ever.

The undersigned in presenting this subject to the consideration of the President, in accordance with instructions of the Convention by which they were appointed, deem it necessary further to add, that it is also to be brought before a general Convention of Delegates appointed by the Agricultural Societies and assemblages of farmers and planters of a number of the States interested in the use of guano, which is to assemble at Washington on the 10th June, to which the Committee are to make a report, as to the result of the negotiations which were set on foot in Lima, in accordance with the instructions given by the Hon. Secretary of State to our Minister at that court.

The probable result of those negotiations will, no doubt, have a direct bearing upon the deliberations of the Convention—as the question will no doubt be considered as to the propriety of memorializing Congress during its present session to lay such duty upon the article, as to prevent its introduction into our Country, unless under different auspices than at present—or in self-defence, and with a self-denial worthy of their ancestors, those in attendance may determine to dispense with its use altogether, and to advise a similar course to those whom they represent.

The Committee could, were it necessary, present ample reasons why the interests of the great body of the producers of the country, whom they repre-

sent, should be heeded in this matter—but the subject cannot be but fully apprehended by your Excellency, from what has already been elicited.

We have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servants,

SAML. SANDS, Chairman.

After the reading of the letter, Mr. Sands said that the Committee had this morning waited upon the President, and whilst apprising him of their sense of the delicacy of the subject, urged on his consideration the great expenditure and onerous restrictions to which, in purchasing Peruvian Guano, the farmers and planters of the United States are subjected. In reply, the President acknowledged the receipt of the letter, and said that he had referred it to the Secretary of State, who would give all the information in his power, received subsequent to the publication of the dispatches which had emanated from that department upon this subject. His Excellency also assured the Committee that every effort tending to the relief of the agricultural interest in this respect had already been made, but that hitherto no favorable result had been arrived at. With regard to the statement that Peru had violated her treaty with us by selling guano to certain South American States, her neighbors, on terms better than those on which she sells to us, the Secretary of State, Mr. Marcy, had recently obtained information from Mr. Randolph Clay, our Minister to Peru, which directly contradicted the statement.

Mr. Sands then asked permission of the Convention, in connection with this subject, to read the following

REPORT :

In reporting to the Convention the result of their appointment, the Committee deem it not inappropriate to refer to the subject somewhat farther than is contained in their communication to the President, in order that the facts bearing upon the question may be placed within the reach of the Delegates, to enable them more fully to comprehend it in all its bearings, and thus act understandingly upon any motion which may be presented for their consideration.

The subject of the monopoly in the sale of Peruvian Guano, and the exorbitant price caused thereby, together with the many vexations which have been attendant on it, has not only attracted the attention of the farmers and planters of this country, but of England also, for several years past; and the most earnest desire has been manifested, and strenuous efforts made by the Agricultural Societies of the country, to induce the government of the U. S. to take efficient measures to relieve us from its effects. The attention of Congress has been invoked upon the subject, and an able report, in response to a memorial from the farmers of Delaware, was made to the House of Representatives on the 31st of July, 1854, and a bill presented, which, in accordance with the views of the Committee of that body, was deemed the most certain means of effecting the object of the memorialists. This bill, however, did not receive the action necessary to secure its adoption. From the documents and facts, presented in that report, and from other sources, the Committee are enabled to offer the following view of the subject for the consideration of the Convention:—

The memorial of the farmers of Delaware alluded to, after acknowledging the great value of this

fertilizer, declare that although the price at which it came to the consumer "seemed from the first extravagant, yet it was sufferable, in view of a reduction which it was believed would be soon effected, through the influence of a commercial competition," but that so far from this hope being realized, they "have been compelled to pay at almost every successive purchase of this manure, a price higher than the last,"—and they believe this evil springs from "a mere caprice or mean selfishness of an odious Anglo-Peruvian monopoly, by which is doled out to the American consumer a stinted but costly supply of an article, which, if left to be regulated by the principles of a liberal commerce, might come in abundance, and at a moderate price." That this is the true ground of the difficulty under which the consumers labor, there can be no doubt—and the memorialists pray that some constitutional method may be devised by which Peru would either cede to us one of the guano islands, or permit American vessels to take from them such supplies, for a just equivalent, as to place the trade in that article upon the true commercial basis of demand and supply.

This latter object has claimed the particular attention of our government for the three last administrations, but so far from the just expectations which have been held out of eventual success being obtained to their efforts, the latest phase placed upon the subject has just been presented by Mr. De Osma, the Peruvian Minister to this country, who, in anticipation of the action of this Convention, has just issued his manifesto, in which he says that the present system of Peru, sustained as he declares by "*unanimous public opinion in Peru*," will, he has not the least doubt, be inflexibly adhered to, and that his government "will regard all attempts to influence or coerce it by any measures of vindictive legislation, with the object either to reduce the price or establish a free trade in Peruvian Guano in favor of American agriculturists, as *offensive and derogatory* to the national dignity of Peru, and an interference in the internal affairs of the republic," and an infringement of the 6th article of the treaty with the United States.

This bold defiance in advance of any action predicated upon the assembling of this Convention, might probably have more weight, were it not questionable whether Mr. De Osma has authority for speaking the sentiments either of the people or government of Peru. It is well known that the affairs of the Peruvian nation have for more than twelve months past, been in a state bordering upon anarchy, and the late accounts from Lima, indicate the probable approach of a violent change in the form of its government; therefore Mr. De Osma cannot be supposed to speak with authority as regards the action of any future government upon this subject. His assertion that the *unanimous public opinion in Peru* is in favor of the present system, we have fortunately better, and perhaps more *disinterested* authority for doubting. Mr. J. Randolph Clay, our Minister to Peru, in a letter to the Secretary of State, declared that the "public in general [of Peru] appears to be in favor of selling a limited quantity at a fixed price at the islands. Some individuals (he added) who it is understood are in the confidence of the President elect, have also told me that they shall use their influence to the same end." In a subsequent letter, our minister also declared that "there is a very strong feeling in the country against the con-

tract concluded with the Barredas and others, and it is thought that the Congress will not confirm it"—and that "some efforts will probably be made by members of the opposition to obtain an act authorizing the sale of guano at the islands"—"tho' Mr. Clay adds, as subsequent events proved, "but they will scarcely succeed"—and the reasons why success could not be attained in an object which it was evident would be for the interest of Peru, is not left for us to guess at—it is in the fact that the *government officials* of Peru are believed to be interested in the profits of the trade, and therefore their efforts are directed to a continuance of a system, by which, under pretence of charges for commissions, agencies, interest and incidentals, the public treasury can be more easily depleted by an adherence to the Agency system, without the people being able to discover the iniquity, than if the cost of each cargo was paid directly into the public treasury. Mr. Clay, in his despatch to the Secretary of State, says he had called upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and had told him that the subject had excited great attention in the United States, "and that if the agricultural community could purchase the Peruvian article at a fair price, and be certain of obtaining it at all seasons, that the consumption would be quadrupled"—"that whilst the revenue of Peru would be constantly and steadily augmenting, the farmers of the United States would find their profit in the increased crops produced by their use of it. No trade, therefore, (he adds) could be more mutually beneficial, if properly regulated." Mr. Clay also remarked, that in his opinion "the present system of consignments for account of the government, was very objectionable: for, besides being liable to GREAT ABUSES, the *consignees*, by their contracts, *virtually controlled the whole Guano trade*. The contractors could increase or diminish the number of tons shipped to the United States, either by omitting to charter vessels to carry guano, or by delaying their sailing from Peru; could order them to enter particular ports of the Union, and to avoid others" [the very course threatened by Mr. Riley, the agent at New York, in 1852, and by Mr. Barreda in 1854, and more recently the latter has, it is said, declared his intention to pursue in the future.] Mr. Clay adds, that the contractors "could instruct their agents resident there to keep the article on hand, or make sales, as might best suit the private interests [and he might have added, the vindictive feelings] of the contractors; and thus, by contracting and expanding the market, place their own price upon it. In short, as in all monopolies, the consuming public is the sufferer; and in this instance, most probably, *without the Peruvian Government deriving the income or advantages which it might reasonably expect to draw from the possession of so valuable an article of commerce.*"

Mr. Clay, in proof of the correctness of these views, presents as evidence, the complaints which had been made against a former Agent, in the city of Baltimore, who "had sold guano to a few individuals at \$47 per ton, and these had resold it at \$55, and even \$60 per ton—raising a strong suspicion that he was interested in the transaction for more than his legitimate commission." Like complaints have more recently been made, against parties similarly situated, and the circumstantial evidence is equally strong that private speculations or operations by Peruvian officials, have caused the

advance in the article at the present time. Mr. Clay very significantly concludes his despatch as follows:—"It is remarkable, that with regard to Guano, neither the ministers nor the statesmen of Peru appear to consult the true interest of the public fisc." The reason is too obvious, to those who are acquainted with their venality. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society of New Castle County, Delaware, in 1852, the late Mr. Holcomb, (says the Delaware State Journal), "read a letter from a highly respectable commercial house engaged in the Peruvian Guano business, revealing some curious facts in reference to the history of this trade—its monopoly by a company, and the fact, that official personages are concerned in it, and exhibiting the extortions practiced on our farmers, in the prices demanded by this company"—and after stating that one individual had, it was supposed, realized nearly a quarter of a million of dollars in two years, it was added "that the failure of the efforts which have heretofore been made through our national government have in a great measure been owing to the fact, that the agriculturists making the endeavors have not been well advised of the conditions on which the article is at present furnished, and in consequence have not brought their efforts to bear on the salient point." The letter goes on then to say, that "the efforts of our government should be applied to break up the system"—that the Guano Company which supplies the article, "is composed in a measure, of persons in high official station, under the Peruvian Government, with a sufficient number of mercantile men to manage the trading and the financial part of the operation; and this company formed with a view to profit and act as any intelligent merchants would—furnishing the article at the highest rate the farmer will consent to pay, without materially diminishing the consumption. The negotiation on the part of our government should be made in Peru, as the Peruvian Minister to this country is understood to be one of the company, and of course his interest would be adverse to breaking up the present system."—Mr. Holcomb added that the former "monopoly company of Gibbs, Bright & Co. had recently been succeeded by T. W. Riley & Co., of New York, though most of the members of the old firm were retained, including the Peruvian Minister to this country, and his brother-in-law"—"selling manure at 100 per cent. profit to our farmers (added Mr. Holcomb) was a new item in diplomatic intercourse, and in the business usually transacted by foreign ministers." The New York Courier's Washington correspondent of 3d July, of same year, charges in that journal, that the trade was "mainly monopolized by a British company, in which, it is said, the *Charge d'Affaires from Peru* to the United States is largely interested; they regulate the prices for this country to suit their own caprices and pockets—hence it is, that the nominal value fluctuates, and that our farmers are compelled to pay the exorbitant prices" which they are charged. Whether or not our government has taken the hint from the various allusions made to the connexion with this trade by the Peruvian Minister, in this country, it is not for the Committee to determine, but it is a very significant fact, that in all of the despatches upon this subject which have come under their observation, no allusion is at any time made to the name of the present *Charge d'Affaires*.

It will thus be seen by these facts, what reliance

is to be placed upon the testimony of the Minister of Peru, in his recent manifesto, that the present system is "sustained by unanimous public opinion in Peru,"—and how far his own disinterested connexion with the trade enables him to judge impartially, when he hopes that those whom he is addressing "will be convinced that no advantage can possibly result to American agriculturists from any further agitation or movements on their part toward obtaining a free trade in Peruvian Guano, or a reduction of its price, in their favor"—when contrasted with the advice of our own minister at the Peruvian Court, who, years ago, urged the farmers of the United States to advise him "what course they would pursue, in case the Peruvian Government does not change its manner of disposing of the guano"—and in the most emphatic manner declared that he was "CONVINCED THAT THE BEST MODE OF operating upon this government [of Peru] would be THROUGH COMBINATIONS AND ENERGETIC RESOLUTIONS, emanating from the AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES." In the same despatch, Mr. Clay regrets that those who were complaining about the present system, did not indicate to the government "what course the agriculturists propose to pursue," should Peru continue to consign the guano as heretofore.

The charge made against the Peruvian Minister of complicity in the speculations in guano, was published in the most respectable newspapers of the country, and never, so far as has come to the knowledge of the Committee, was it denied. That Mr. De Osma has the control, and has exercised it, of the trade in this country, in connexion with Mr. Barrera, is manifested by the card of the latter, published on 1st September, 1854, wherein he states, that in consequence of the causes which had prejudiced the farming interest, the Peruvian Minister "is desirous, as far as it is in his power, to place the Peruvian Guano before the consumers in such a manner as will enable them to obtain it on terms better adapted to meet the difficulties of the season, and has been pleased to direct orders to the undersigned to sell the guano for the present" at the reduced price therein stated—thus proving the correctness of the position assumed above, that these monopolists will keep the guano "at the highest rate the farmer will consent to pay."—On the 1st June of that year, the price had been advanced, from \$50 up to \$55 per ton, contrary to the advice of those who knew the views and feelings of the agriculturists upon the subject. This gave the farmers the time and opportunity of making other and early arrangements for their fall supply of manure, and consequently the Peruvian agents after making a large provision for the season, pre-dicated upon the requirements of the preceding Fall, found themselves overstocked, and the demand so limited for their commodity, that the principal season for its use was likely to pass by without enabling them to dispose of enough to meet the heavy demands upon them for freight and expenses. Upon the pretence of Mr. De Osma's sympathy with the farmers whose crops had not resulted as favorable as usual, the reduction was made again to \$50, as indicated above—but the current of events, the ensuing winter and spring, evinced too clearly, that the sympathy was more likely occasioned in another direction, as the paper of the parties concerned was being hawked about at usurious rates, and very heavy discounts offered from the ruling prices to effect sales of their guano.

The present agents, Messrs. Barreda, at Baltimore, and Mr. Riley, at New York, on the 1st July, 1852, announced their appointment as "exclusive Agents of the Peruvian Government for the importation and sale of guano in the United States," and that "following the views of the Peruvian Government, whose wishes are to establish a *fixed and convenient* price for this manure, offering the same facilities to farmers and dealers of obtaining it from first hands" at \$46 per ton of 2,240 lbs. for all quantities above 50 tons, with the intimation that all charges which might be imposed by our laws, would be added to that sum. The price continued at this point for some months, until the meeting of the Md. State Agricultural Society, in October, when it was announced to the Society that Mr. Barreda had made an important change in the mode of selling guano, by which the farmer was enabled to purchase not less than one nor more than ten tons, at the same pro rata rates heretofore asked for 50 tons—and a vote of thanks by the Society, was proposed to him for the change—a committee was at the same time appointed to wait on Mr. B., in reference to the sale of guano directly to farmers, and also in regard to the terms, price, &c. The committee called the attention of the Agent to the fact, that the price fixed (\$46) was much greater than a fair value for guano in Peru, together with the cost of its importation would justify, and that the increased consumption at a reduced price, would afford an increase of revenue,—"but if on the contrary, (added the committee) in addition to the high price resulting from the government monopoly, the farmer should be subjected to the extortion resulting from a second monopoly by the dealers in that article, in addition to the danger of adulteration, it would be the duty of the farmers to adopt counteracting measures, either by discontinuing as a body the use of guano until the Peruvian Government would make arrangements to protect them from imposition, or by the substitution of some other fertilizer, the price of which was not liable to the same degree of fluctuation." And here, let it be remarked, the *uncertainty* and want of fixedness in the price of guano, has probably caused as much or more dissatisfaction than even the high price of the article. The Committee in their report to the Society, stated that Mr. Barreda explained to them "his own views and those of his government," and accompanied the same with a written communication from that gentleman, in which he accounts for the limited supply of guano during the fall, and the "deep dissatisfaction" with which he had seen the increase of price by the dealers, and which it was out of his power to prevent—and added—"we can now assure you that we have taken the steps necessary to avoid, for the future, a like occurrence; and that the worthy and useful class which you represent will not again remain exposed to these inconveniences." "The views of the Peruvian Government and our own concerning the Guano business, are not, and cannot be other than those consistent with the interests of both parties concerned in it, that is, the 'owner' or 'producer,' and the 'consumer'—and then goes on to show the mutual advantages resulting to both parties, the one furnishing the other with his produce as cheap as is possible, and the other increasing the consumption, in the ratio of the cheapness and facility with which it is obtained. And to avoid the impositions which had been practiced upon the farmers, as far as was in

his power, he pledged himself to the Committee to sell guano hereafter to farmers only, in lots from 1 to 10 tons, until he should be fully supplied, when he intended "to arrange matters so as to sell to farmers any quantity over 20 tons, on time, with satisfactory endorsement, in the city, and at the fixed price of \$46 20 per ton of 2,240 lbs." Mr. Barreda added that he felt confident "the Peruvian Government would be very happy to make 'some deduction' in the price, if its sacred engagements, &c., would now allow it—but that "he had reason to expect that this wish will be realized before long;" and in conclusion he assured the committee, "that according to the instructions of the Peruvian Government, and pursuing his own inclinations, the agricultural interests of the United States, concerned in the guano trade, will have our best exertions in their favor—and viewing it as a matter of duty and convenience, he would, as far as was compatible with his position, make it his duty to accommodate the farmers in their transactions with him." So satisfactory and fair were the assurances thus made, that the Maryland Society adopted the vote of thanks to Mr. Barreda, which had been proposed at the preceding meeting. During the ensuing year, it is but justice to that gentleman to say, that every indication was manifested to carry out his pledges to the Maryland Society, but in consequence of the limited supply received for the fall of 1853, and the ill-contrived arrangements made for the sale of it, great dissatisfaction was manifested, and renewed efforts were made to abolish the system.

The Virginia State Agricultural Society sent a delegation to Washington, in the fall of 1853, to ask the government, "in accordance with the views of the Society and of the people of Virginia, to adopt the proper means to endeavor to change the present system of the trade, which is a monopoly of the Peruvian Government." The President concurred in the views of the Committee, and declared his determination to carry them out, with energy, and with all the means which his position afforded him. And a correspondent of the Charleston Mercury, a leading paper of the South, in view of the increased demand for guano for cotton, and the high price and great scarcity, proposed that the United States Government should relieve Peru from its obligations to the British bondholders, by advancing to that government, 4 to \$6,000,000, on the condition that the guano trade shall be thrown open to this country." The Washington Union, in copying this communication, remarked that the "subject is attracting attention and provoking discussion in many of the Southern States, and we are sure the administration will not fail to give due consideration to the suggestions made on the subject."—These facts are noted by the Committee, to show the continued and abiding influence which this subject has had on the agricultural mind of the Middle and Southern States—and all tending to the same point—viz.: the abrogation of the present absurd and iniquitous system of supply—a system deleterious in the highest degree to the interests of the consumer, and no less so to the owner or producer, and only beneficial to the officials who manage to maintain it for their own aggrandizement, and at the expense of our farmers, and of their own people.

Early in the year of 1854, the Committee of the Maryland State Society reported that they had waited on the Secretary of State, the Honorable

Mr. Clayton, and were assured by that gentleman that every effort should be made by the Government to effect a change in the trade in guano—the death of the then President, shortly after, however, “had deprived our agricultural community of the services of Mr. Clayton, who,” the Committee in justice to that statesman declared, “had evinced every disposition to give all the weight of both his private and official position, to accomplish a satisfactory arrangement with the Peruvian Government.” The Committee further reported to the Society, that they had communicated in writing and personally with the succeeding Administration, and received assurances of its desire to do everything within its power to satisfy the farmers and planters of the country. Shortly after the present Administration assumed the direction of our national affairs, the same Committee called the attention of Mr. Marcy, Secretary of State, to the wishes of the farmers of the country upon the subject of the guano trade, who, in a letter of the 6th December, 1853, assured the Committee that “the Department appreciated the importance of cheapening the price of guano, to consumers of that article in the United States, and would endeavor to accomplish that object by means of further negotiations with the government of Peru”—and “that instructions for that purpose were some time since forwarded to the United States Minister at Lima.” The Committee of the Maryland State Society, subsequent to the reception of the above note from Mr. Marcy, had a personal interview with him at the Department, and was informed “that the matter had engaged the serious consideration of the government, and that every proper opportunity should be embraced to secure from Peru such a trade in guano that would meet the views and wishes of the agriculturists of the country.”

The same Society, through a Committee, has more recently called the attention of the Secretary of State to the subject, and intimated to him that it was reported that Peru had granted privileges in this trade to other nations, her neighbors on the South American coast, which had been refused to this country, which, if correct, was a violation of our treaty with that power. Mr. Marcy promised the Committee that the matter should be investigated, and that instructions had already been forwarded to Mr. Clay, our Minister to Peru, to examine into the subject.

Before concluding this synopsis of the history and condition of this trade, the Committee would refer to the operations of the last season in regard thereto. It will have been noticed that the Agents of the Peruvian Government, in behalf of themselves and their employers, had given the most earnest assurances to the Maryland Society of their desire and intention, not only to protect the agricultural interest from the impositions which they had seen with such “*deep dissatisfaction*” had been practiced upon them, but that they hoped the time was not far distant when the position of Peru would be such as to enable her to make a reduction in the price of guano, and to afford the farmers the opportunity to obtain it on such terms and in such quantities as would bring it within the reach of all. How entirely these pledges have been violated, has been recently shown by the public press—and so far from the price being reduced, and the terms made more easy, and the commodity kept within the reach of the consumer, in obtaining it from first hands, efforts have been directly used

by the principal Agency in this country to advance the price to the farmer, and to prevent any but the largest capitalists and dealers from obtaining supplies—the circumstances attending these transactions have been of such recent date, as to render them familiar to most of the members of the Convention, and therefore are merely alluded to in the present connexion.

Mr. Calvert then read to the Convention the memorial of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, in which reference was made to the charge that Peru had violated her treaty with us by selling guano to other nations at a stipulated and lower price than to us, and the reply of our Minister to Peru, assuring the Secretary of State that there was no foundation for the report. He acknowledged the zeal of the present Secretary of State, as well as that of Mr. John M. Clayton when in that Department, in respect to the guano controversy.

Mr. Hughes, of Maryland, called the attention of the Convention to the spirit of defiance that breathed through Mr. De Osma's letter. He denied that the right of Peru to the sole sovereignty and property in the Chincha Islands was unquestioned. It is questioned, and he questioned it, and enforced his view by reference to the dispute that had arisen some years ago between Great Britain and the King of Naples about the sulphur product of the island of Sicily. In 1838 the King of Naples undertook to establish a monopoly of sulphur, to which the Government of Great Britain strenuously objected, on the grounds: 1st, that certain British subjects had vested rights in the trade, which would be prejudiced by the monopoly; and, 2dly and chiefly, that, as sulphur was essential to the manufacture of gunpowder, no such monopoly could be permitted. In answer to this posture of the British Government, the King of Naples raised troops, collected and armed a navy, and put his affairs generally upon a warlike footing; and the British, on their side, actually captured several vessels under the Neapolitan flag. Before long, however, the weaker party gave way, a treaty was formed, and the monopoly abandoned. Mr. Hughes denied that the law of nations justifies the selfishness and caprice of Peru in maintaining a monopoly in guano, an article not, like gunpowder, devoted to the destruction of human life, but to its support and prolongation.

Mr. Wm. D. Merrick, of Charles county, Maryland, would like to hear some distinct proposition on which the Convention could act. He did not think the example of Great Britain to be just what we ought to follow. Might did not make right, neither in public or private affairs, for he held the law governing the actions of individuals and nations to be one and the same. Peru had the same right to dispose of her property and products in the way that suited her as other nations had.—Let the same principle be applied to our cotton, that was sought to be applied to Peru, and what would we say? Suppose Great Britain should plead the necessity that compelled her to use our cotton as a sufficient reason for forcing us to accommodate our practice to her views, should we yield to her demands? In this case might would meet might, and her demands would be disregarded. We ought to do nothing but what is right, and we have no right to fix for Peru the price she shall put upon her guano.

The only practical proposition he had heard of

was what had originated in a South Carolina source, which is to purchase the Chincha Islands, or rather the right to get our supplies from thence. Nothing had yet been effected towards the end proposed; and for himself he knew of but two feasible methods to get out of our present difficulty; first, to find some substitute for the article, so that by lessening the demand for it, we should lessen the price; or, secondly, by direct purchase of a right to supply ourselves from the guano deposits. As for the title of the agricultural community to such a draught upon the Treasury as would be requisite for this, it was obvious that agriculture is the paramount interest, and whilst every other interest in the land had been consulted, surely the first of all should not be sent empty away. Our National Treasury is overflowing, and such a purchase as he recommended could be easily and rightfully effected. Mr. Merrick alluded to the alleged discovery of an island, five hundred miles west of Peru, said to be well covered with the fertilizing deposit. If this should turn out as had been represented, a great source of relief had already been found. He again called attention to his first proposed remedy, namely, the discovery and use of substitutes, of which some already applied had proved good; it would be advisable still to exert ourselves to discover others.

Mr. Walsh, before offering a resolution, would state that substitutes for guano had failed. If the report of the discovery of a guano island should not be realised, it would be necessary to take some decided course of another character. The resolution which Mr. Walsh offered, looking to a purchase of one of the Chincha Islands, and, in case of a refusal by Peru to sell, recommend a prohibitive duty by our Congress. This resolution was several times modified and at length withdrawn.

The committee of invitation to the Agricultural Committees of both Houses of Congress here entered and reported that the House Committee would be with the Convention at five in the afternoon, and that the members of the Senate committee were not in the city, but that the Hon. Mr. Mason of Va. would attend.

Mr. Clemson, of Prince George's county, Maryland, alluded to the ample deposits of fertilizing materials to be found in Cuba and other West India islands, some of which he had personally noted whilst engaged on a geological survey there. He entered into account of the chemical composition of guano, rather to its disfavor as a producer of food. Guano, he said, produced a luxuriant leafage, but is not proportionately favorable to the production of the grain. It contains but a small proportion of the organic constituents of soils, and if its use be persevered in will bring ultimate sterility. He instanced other fertilizers, as bone dust, which were to be preferred. Mr. Clemson could not see how we could compel other Governments to sell their commodities at our price. Such an attempt could end in nothing, and left the only resource for us in falling back upon ourselves. Our most glaring want is a good scientific agricultural institution. The knowledge to be derived from such a source would save the thousands now thrown away on humbug fertilizers, and be a quarter whence direction, counsel, and advice could be derived by the agricultural community. Mount Vernon presented an excellent locality for such an institution, and ought to be purchased by the Government for that purpose. The benefits

derivable from such a step would be immense, and if farmers generally would insist upon it, their representatives in Congress would soon secure the boon. Mr. C. offered a preamble and resolution in conformity with the subject-matter of his speech.

The President of the Convention ruled the resolutions out of order at this time, inasmuch as they had not a sufficiently direct bearing upon the proper business of the Convention.

Mr. De Bow thought the only thing the Convention could do, to remedy the evils complained of, was to purchase the right to load our ships as suggested by Mr. Merrick. He moved, as an amendment to Mr. Walsh's motion, that its last clause be stricken out, as it looked to the exertion of force.

Mr. Walsh repelled the idea that force was intended in his resolution. But surely, if Peru would not sell us her guano at a fair price, we had a good right to put a prohibitive duty on it.

Mr. Calvert said, as long as our present treaty with Peru exists, we cannot prohibit her guano, unless we also prohibit the guano of Patagonia, Chili, Colombia, and all other countries.

Mr. Walsh was willing to prohibit the introduction of all guanos.

Mr. Calvert could consent to no such thing. Such a course would be suicidal. We should be damaging by it our own interests and benefitting the agriculture of all the rest of the world. What we most want is a Cabinet Minister presiding over a Department of Agriculture. Nobody had ever attempted to offer any but constitutional objections to such a measure, and all such objections he repudiated. Congress ought not to be permitted to be the sole arbiter of what is and what is not constitutional. When Congress wanted to do anything they never troubled themselves as to whether it was constitutional or not. He should like to know where the constitutionality of getting California, Florida, &c., could be found. Then there is Denmark and the Sound dues; nobody rises in Congress to question the constitutionality of coercion in that case. But the moment agriculture asks anything, there are constitutional scruples in the way; it cannot be done. Now, it is high time that this thing be stopped. Congressmen are rightfully not our masters, but our servants, and if farmers choose, they can make them so really. We hear now-a-days a great deal about 'platforms'; it is high time to have an agricultural platform. Farmers do not want office for themselves, but they should take care to give no offices to the politicians until they pledge themselves to give us what we want. Under the combined influences of city life and commercial pursuits, the nation is beginning to wane, and nothing can restore it but a restoration to the agricultural community of its proper weight in the policy and legislation of the country. In the country we have no "isms," no unhealthy agitations, and on the rural population must rest our final hopes of national security. Notwithstanding all this, the interests of every other class are consulted and cared for, and the farmer alone is put off with "constitutional scruples."

Mr. R. C. Holliday, of Maryland, differed both with his friends Messrs. Calvert and Walsh.— Though a farmer, he wanted no especial privileges for his class. [Mr. Calvert rose and explained that he contemplated nothing whatever of the sort. All he wanted was that farmers should have their proportionate share of the protection of the

National Legislature.] We ask for no more than constitutional protection; we wish equal privileges to all, exclusive to none. He looked upon the prohibitive proposition of his friend from Hartford [Mr. Walsh] as strange and anomalous. All that is requisite to be done is to modify the existing treaty. One way presented itself, as he thought, by which this object could be secured, and that was the reduction of the duty on Peruvian bark, which he understood to amount to 50 per cent. on its value. This would have the effect of putting our relations with Peru on a more amicable footing; it would extend the hand of friendship instead of defiance. We ought to recognize the right of Peru to those islands in full. If we act amicably, other nations will do the same. He thought the report of the committee, as read by Mr. Sands, arraigned the Peruvian officials, whereas the true source of the evil lies in the combinations of speculators. He should resist all attempts to prohibit the introduction of guano.

Mr. Sands, editor of the Baltimore American Farmer, affirmed his belief that Peruvian officials are individually interested in the guano trade, and gave his reasons therefor. He then read the following bill that had been introduced in 1854 into the House of Representatives, having a bearing on the prohibition of guano, in case Peru refuses to relax her restrictions.

A Bill regulating, in part, the trade between the United States and other Countries.

Section 1. Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of , Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and fifty , all guano shall be exempt from duty, when the market price in the ports of the United States, into which it is imported, shall not exceed forty dollars per ton, of two thousand two hundred and forty pounds.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That from and after the same period, there shall be levied, collected and paid, on the said guano imported into the United States, duties at the following rates, *ad valorem*, that is to say: four per cent., when the market price is more than forty, and less than forty-seven dollars per ton; ten per cent., when more than forty-seven and less than fifty dollars per ton; and seventy-five per cent., when the price is equal to, or exceeds fifty dollars per ton; and that the Secretary of the Treasury be required to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

NOTE.—The tariff scale might be improved so as to make it the interest of the Peruvian Government to sell the guano at \$42 per ton.

This bill had been presented by a Committee of the House of Representatives, consisting of the Hon. Geo. Read Riddle of Delaware, W. O. Goode of Virginia, Gerrett Smith of New York, Thos. D. Eliot, M. C. Trant, A. R. Sollers, of Maryland, and W. S. Ashe of N. Carolina. Mr. S. read from the report of that committee the reasons for the adoption of the bill, in which the question was considered, whether a course of retaliatory legislation is justifiable, in which it is declared as the opinion of the committee, that "circumstances may not only render such course justifiable, but necessary; and the present case is one in point"—that "the great interest of agriculture in the United States is now suffering from the

oppression of a monopoly constituted by foreign powers. Peru, the recognised party and head of this alliance, is a friendly nation, but can now only be regarded in the light of a foreign merchant selling her staple in our seaboard towns, and should be so treated. Her minister residing near our government arbitrarily fixes the prices of guano, and her agents sell it according to his orders—contrary to the spirit of all commercial regulations, contrary to the urgent and repeated requests of our government, and contrary to the interests of our people." "The committee are satisfied with the policy of the measure—if their recommendation be adopted, and the bill becomes a law, guano will be sold in our seaport towns at a price which the farmers and planters will be justified in giving, or not be sold at all, and all other fertilizers resorted to which will better reward the labor bestowed on their application."

Mr. Sands read extracts from a letter recently received from the Hon. Mr. Riddle, the chairman of the committee which reported the above bill, in which he regretted the probability of his not being able to attend the Convention, but that if present, he would advocate legislation such or similar to that which his report proposed—the bill, in his opinion, "would have passed, could it have been reached on the calendar; it conflicts with no treaty with Peru, and should be passed."

Mr. Sands thought that we should request the President to treat with Peru for one or more of the guano islands—that we are bound under the existing circumstances in which we are placed in regard to this trade by Peru, to avail of any and every opportunity to do that justice to our citizens which has been denied them by the action of the Peruvian officials—that Peru is, and has been for a year past, in an unsettled state, and that recent accounts from her capital indicated that another revolution was imminent—that he held that nations no more than individuals are warranted in committing acts of injustice, still every opportunity should be watched by our government to secure to our people rights and privileges in regard to this trade, which they had been so long and so ardently seeking—that in the probable changes which would ere long take place in that country, some one of the many leaders of factions or parties would get the control of the government, and require money to sustain his authority—and if our Minister was authorized to avail of any opportunity to purchase one or more of these islands, or such rights and privileges as will enable us to have a more liberal trade, the object might be effected. He referred to the recent action of our government in the acknowledgment of the new Nicaraguan government, as an evidence that we are at liberty to recognize and treat with the *de facto* government of any foreign nation, and that a treaty once made, no subsequent administration of that government could annul—that it was reported by advices from Lima, that a number of the most influential of her citizens, in consequence of the troubled state and continued anarchy, were even desirous of an annexation with the United States.

Mr. Merrick reiterated the sentiments he before expressed as to the purchase of a right to procure guano, and the perfect facility with which, with an overflowing treasury, that could be done.

Mr. Earle, of Queen Anne's county, Maryland, could not see what right we have to coerce Peru. No doubt Peru had her reasons for dealing with us

as she does. She will not sell us one of the Chincha Islands, as she knows it would be but an entering-wedge to our possession of the whole country, which Peru is desirous to prevent as long as she can. The Peruvians no doubt look upon us as a filibustering people, and though he himself was no "manifest destiny" man, yet he supposed the day would come when we should own all the Southern continent. What he would propose is that the President of the United States should open negotiations in order to cheapen guano. He would do nothing that would not be amicable in its nature, as guano was an article we could not do without.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. R. M'Henry, of Harford, moved an adjournment to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

On the re-assembling of the Convention, Dr. E. P. White of Virginia, remarked, that Lieut. Maury had desired him to say that he should be happy to receive the members of the Convention at the Observatory, and in any way he could to promote the objects they had in view.

The President announced the business to be the consideration of Mr. Walsh's resolution.

Mr. McHenry moved that the report read by Mr. Sands be published in the American Farmer.

Mr. Calvert moved the adoption of the report by the Convention.

This motion was much debated, but finally it was unanimously resolved that the report of the committee prepared and read by Mr. Sands be published in the Farmer and other agricultural publications, and that a vote of thanks of the Convention be tendered the committee.

On motion of Mr. Holliday, it was agreed that the able communication in the National Intelligencer of this date, addressed to the editors by Willoughby Newton, Esq., be read aloud to the Convention; and it was read accordingly.

Mr. Walsh's resolution was then called up, and read for the information of persons not present at the morning meeting.

Mr. Sands moved a division of the question.

Mr. Earle argued that any restriction put by us on the guano trade, would only work to our injury; and, as for complete exclusion, all the disadvantage would be ours, and the benefit to Peru's other customers. We should at one stroke impoverish our own soils and reduce the price of the manure to other nations. He would go for the purchase out and out of the Chincha Islands. He then unfolded the true cause of the rise in the price of guano, which he found almost wholly in the rise of freights, which had augmented from \$10 and \$12 to \$25 and even \$28 the ton. He deprecated the exhibition of any hostility to Peru or her officials. Already had the agent for Maryland left that agency and gone to New York. This shows that he had been made to feel acutely the unfriendliness that had been displayed. About three-fourths of all the guano brought to the United States comes through the port of Baltimore. If this were taken away, or in any considerable degree reduced, not Maryland alone, but Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina would be seriously stinted in their accustomed supplies. On every ground, then, he was unwilling to adopt harsh measures; and, as there was plenty of money in the Treasury, he would again acknowledge his preference over all other plans for the purchase of the Chincha Islands.

Mr. Walsh then withdrew his resolutions.

Mr. Earle suggested the appointment of a committee to solicit the Secretary of State to open a negotiation with the Peruvian Government, and secure a supply of guano on the lowest possible terms.

Mr. Sands preferred the purchase of one or more of the Chincha Islands.

Mr. Earle moved a resolution as a substitute.

Mr. Burgwyn moved as a substitute for Mr. Earle's resolution the following, which was finally carried. It reads as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to wait on the President of the U. S. to request him to continue negotiations with the Government of Peru for the introduction of guano into our country on the most reasonable terms.

Mr. Walsh, in seconding the resolution, remarked, nevertheless, that every thing within the power of negotiation to do had been done already.

A question having arisen as to whether the Secretary of State or the President of the United States was the proper person to apply to, an appeal was made to Hon. Senator Mason, of Virginia, who had taken a seat in the Convention.

Mr. Mason answered the interrogatory by remarking that he agreed with the gentleman behind him who had said that the President was the proper party. The Secretary of State was in such cases considered as only the agent of the President.

Mr. Nelson, of Virginia, deemed it futile to think of the purchase of all or any of the Chincha islands, and hoped that the last part of the substitute which contemplated that measure would be stricken out.

The last part of the substitute was then, on vote of the Convention, stricken out.

Mr. Merrick thought it would not be consistent with the President's self-respect to again solicit from Peru what she has distinctly refused.

The committee appointed by the Chair, under the foregoing resolution, consisted of the following gentlemen: H. K. Burgwyn, of North Carolina; James T. Earle, of Eastern Shore of Maryland; Thomas F. Nelson, of Virginia; John Jones, of Delaware, and Allen Bowie Davis, of Montgomery county, Maryland.

Mr. Ch. Hendry, of Frederick, thought the Convention had not done much towards obtaining the object of its meeting. He considered the blame which had been visited on Peru and her officials properly to belong to the guano merchants and dealers in Baltimore. It was they who had heaped up price upon price on the farmers. As a remedy for this state of things, he would tax guano one dollar a ton for every dollar it cost above forty-five dollars.

Mr. Walsh read a resolution favoring the establishment of a stable government in Nicaragua as conducive to the welfare of American agricultural interests. The resolution was not put to the Convention.

Mr. Earle said that so favorable an opportunity as that now presented by the Convention to ascertain the true condition of the wheat crop over a large region of country on the eastern slope of the Alleghany range ought not to be lost, and he therefore hoped that members would give their opinions as to its prospects in the regions with which they were respectively acquainted.

The President first called on the distinguished Mr. Ruffin, of Virginia, who, in replying to the

call, remarked that he was not very well informed on the subject. He could, however, answer pretty well for the tide-water region of lower Virginia, and he should say that the wheat is now suffering more from Hessian fly than for the fifteen years past. The late drought had done great injury, and he feared that the rains of last week had come too late to be of much real advantage. In Hanover, King William, and King and Queen counties the crops were very bad. On James river they were exceedingly injured by the fly. Exception should be made for fallow crops, and crops put in neither too early nor too late, that is, not before the 10th nor after the 20th of October. In some localities the chinch-bug was bad; so that he should wind up by saying that in Middle and Lower Virginia the prospects are the reverse of good.

Mr. Cooke, of Prince George's county, Virginia, testified that the crops in his neighborhood were poor, not more than half an average. He believed this to be pretty much the case throughout the State.

Mr. Hubbard, from Buckingham, considered the wheat crop as decidedly inferior. Fly and chinch bug were severe on it. With respect to the early wheat, it suffered for want of rain.

Mr. Wilson, of Clarke county, said that where land was good there would be an average crop, but on other lands the crop would be an utter failure. If possible, corn is worse than wheat.

Mr. Burgwyn, of North Carolina, said that on medium stiff and early sown lands, the wheat is good; elsewhere the frost had destroyed it. Corn is pretty good.

Dr. Roth, from Davison county, North Carolina, said that on the Yadkin, where the land is well cultivated, wheat is good; where late sown on corn land it is poor, being much damaged by the severe frost. Generally he should report in his region crops were inferior. Corn he could speak well of; he never saw it better.

Mr. Earle thought in his region (Eastern Shore) it was twenty or thirty per cent. below an average. He had found the wheat where drilled with guano much better than broadcast.

Mr. Ruffin thought it too soon to judge about the corn crop. In North Carolina, where he had been lately travelling, corn looks well and promising.

Mr. E. Davis, of Washington county, Maryland, spoke of the good appearance of wheat, and thought they would have an average crop.

Mr. Willis, of Caroline county, Maryland, gave a laughable yet lugubrious account of the miseries of his region, where in the place of 60,000 bushels of wheat not one would be reaped; and as for the corn, they had none to plant with, for last year it had turned black on the cobs. [Roars of laughter accompanied and followed this speech.]

Dr. White, from Caroline county, Virginia, thought the corn crop would be poor. The early sown wheat is good, the late sown destroyed by frost. In several adjoining counties not enough would be reaped to pay for the guano used. In the Northern Neck, about Fredericksburg, and neighboring the Rappahannock, there would be no crops to reap; joint worm and fly are making havoc.

A gentleman from Spottsylvania county, Virginia, said it seemed to him nothing delighted a company of farmers so much as bad news. They were proverbially a set of croakers. As for his region, including Orange, Culpepper, and Albemarle coun-

ties, the wheat crop will be a full average. There was some fly and chinch-bug, but generally the wheat crop was better than it had been for several years.

The President would like to ask what kind of wheat is best; to which the gentleman last up replied that the early varieties are the safest and largest producers, especially the early purple-straw.

Another gentleman from Spottsylvania reported that his overseer had made the discovery of a new fly which was infesting the crop, and to which he gave no name.

Mr. McHenry then rose and moved that the thanks of the Convention be given to the President, Vice Presidents, and Secretary, for the impartiality and ability with which the business of the meeting had been carried on—which was adopted.

Mr. Jones, of Delaware, spoke for Cecil county, Maryland. He said the wheat looks well where well cared for. In Sussex and Kent counties, Delaware, even if the wheat should bring \$1.25 per bushel, it will not pay for the guano used.

Mr. Burgwyn called on Mr. Nelson to give his experience in drill-husbandry, with which Mr. Nelson complied at considerable length.

Mr. B. said that the Secretary of the Navy had informed him that he had dispatched a ship to search for guano islands west of Peru.

Mr. Sands moved the thanks of the Convention to Professor Henry for the use of the hall; which Professor Henry disclaiming for himself any title to the honor intended him and substituting the Regents instead, so as to include the Professor and Regents; the Convention insisted on adopting the resolution as originally proposed.

Mr. Walsh then moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to his Excellency the President of the United States and to Hon. Wm. L. Marcy, Secretary of State, for their zealous participation in the efforts to effect such a trade with Peru in the article of guano as would prove most advantageous to the farmers of this country.

The President of the Convention, speaking of the wheat crops in his neighborhood, said that they would not pay for the guano used. The early sown wheat is injured one-third, the late sown two-thirds.

Mr. A. B. Davis, of Montgomery county, Md., in response to a call from the Chair, remarked that up to the first of May, he had never seen a more promising crop of wheat in his county. Since then the Hessian Fly had made its appearance, and in some fields made sad havoc. The late seeded wheat appeared to have suffered most; and he thought the crop would be thereby shortened at least one-third. The condition of the corn crop had been spoken of, and he agreed with some other gentlemen that it was altogether too early to form an opinion of the result of that crop; but the complaint of a bad stand was almost universal, and in many instances farmers in his county were re-planting corn. In connection with the object for which this Convention had been called—not having been present at the morning session—he would state, so far as a single experiment would go, that he had this Spring applied Columbian with Peruvian Guano, in proportion of two-thirds the former to one-third the latter in the hill to corn, with very satisfactory result—so far as an opinion could yet be formed. He had also used

vitrified bones at an equal cost, side by side with Peruvian Guano, and the wheat treated with dissolved bones he thought superior even to the guanoed wheat. This experiment he had tried before with very satisfactory result. He thought such combinations, and the husbanding and judicious application of all manures within reach of the farmer, so as to render ourselves independent of Peru, and lessen the quantity of guano used, a much surer plan of reducing the cost, than any resolves or plan of negotiations that this Convention could adopt. While up, and with the indulgence of the Convention, he would bring to the notice of his brother farmers here assembled, a very important improvement to the reaping machine, invented and patented by an ingenious and worthy mechanic of his own neighborhood; whose modesty and moderate means had kept it from general notice. He alluded to Dorsey's attachment of a *self-raker*—to an improved machine upon Hussey's pattern. The improvement to the machine consists in lighter draft, with quicker motion to the cutter, and a perfect self-raker, with side delivery. This rake is the simplest implement imaginable, consisting of nothing more than two light pieces of timber crossing each other at right-angles, and revolving horizontally upon a light iron hoop; two of the arms have attached a light paddle to bring the wheat or grass in to the knives, and the other two with rakes, which take the grain and put it entirely out of the way of the track of the horses, in a much more beautiful and compact sheaf than it is possible to form by hand power. Two or three of these machines were put in operation during the last harvest, in a neighborhood where there are a number of other reapers, viz: Hussey's, McCormick's, Burrall's, Seymour & Maynard, and Atkins' self-raker; but by common consent Dorsey's soon became the favorite, entirely suspending the sale of other reapers; and the capacity of his shop is taxed to its utmost to supply the demand of the immediate neighborhood.

A call was made upon Mr. Davis to supply for the farmers of the whole Union, a full report of this machine at the close of the approaching harvest.

On motion of Mr. Holliday, it was

Resolved, That, from the best information in the possession of this Convention, they are of opinion that the present growing wheat crop is less than an average by one-third in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and adjoining counties of Pennsylvania.

A discursive conversation was then kept up for more than an hour on interesting agricultural topics, when Col. Piper, of Carroll county, Maryland, moved the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That this Convention respectfully recommend to the farmers in the habit of using Peruvian guano alone, to substitute a mixture of Colombian, Mexican, and other phosphatic guanos in proper proportions, as recommended by Professors Booth, of Philadelphia, and Stewart, of Baltimore, and other distinguished chemists, as the most efficient means to reduce the present high price of Peruvian guano.

• And the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

The committee appointed by the Convention, called at the President's Mansion the day after the

adjournment, and addressed him the following note:

Mr. President:—On the part of a Convention of the farmers of our country, recently met in Convention to consider the present state of the guano trade, we come to present you, with our highest respect, our request that you will continue your negotiations with the Government of Peru (which, though hitherto unfortunate, may yet, in the vicissitude of human affairs, be brought to a happier conclusion) for the introduction of guano into our country on the most favorable terms possible to be procured.

In conclusion, sir, be pleased to accept our hearty acknowledgments of your efforts heretofore made for this purpose.

H. K. BURGWIN, of North Carolina,
Jas. T. EARLE, of Maryland,
ALLEN BOWIE DAVIS, of Maryland,
THOS. F. NELSON, of Virginia,
JOHN JONES, of Delaware,

Committee on behalf of the Convention.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BALTIMORE, June 3d, 1856.

The Board met pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution. Present, Jas. T. Earle, Esq., President, and Messrs. N. B. Worthington; J. N. Goldsborough, Dr. S. P. Smith, John Merryman, F. Cooke and R. McHenry.

The proceedings of last meeting were read and approved.

The President acknowledged the receipt of a communication from Mr. Cooke, President of the Va. State Agricultural Society, announcing the time for holding the annual Fall Exhibition, and inviting the members of the Md. Society to visit them on the occasion, and pledging a hearty Virginia welcome to those who may attend their Show.

There having been no report on the subject of Agricultural Productions, at the last meeting of the Ex. Committee, on motion, the President appointed Messrs. R. McHenry, J. N. Goldsborough and N. B. Worthington, to examine the several statements made by the competitors at the last Exhibition, with directions to report at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Sands, Treasurer pro tem. for settling up the affairs of the Society to the close of the last Exhibition, presented a statement of his accounts. The President appointed Messrs. Cooke, Smith and Merryman the Committee to audit the same.

On motion, it was ordered, that the salaries of the Secretary and Marshal be now fixed, agreeably to the provisions of the new Constitution—(that of the Treasurer having been already settled, at a former meeting.)

The amount of the compensation heretofore paid to the Secretary being required, that officer reported that he never had received pay for any services he may have rendered, having refused to accept any since he had occupied the office—and still declined receiving any so long as the Society was in debt.

The salary of the Marshal was then fixed at \$200, (the same as heretofore.)

Mr. Merryman moved that the bond of the present Treasurer of the Society be fixed at \$2000—which was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. McHenry, it was ordered that the President and Marshal make any contracts in regard to the keeping or renting of the Show Grounds, which they may deem necessary for the interest of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Smith, the accounts of the Marshal were referred to the Committee appointed on the Treasurer's accounts.

The subject of the Premium list for the Fall Exhibition was then called up—but before proceeding to the consideration of the same, it was determined to revise the rules regulating entries, &c.

On motion, it was ordered, that applications be made for stalls, pens, &c., to the Marshal of the Society, who shall lay them before a Committee of this Board on the 14th day of October, when an allotment of stalls will be made—Committee, Messrs. Worthington, Cooke and Merryman.

Mr. McHenry moved to strike out the Premiums for imported Cattle, which was dissented from.

The following rule, on motion of Mr. McHenry, was adopted, viz:—"Any animal not born within the jurisdiction of the U. S. shall be considered as imported."

The rules 9 and 16 of last year, were, on motion, stricken out, and a rule relative to imported animals, stricken out at the last meeting of the Society, was on motion reinstated, with the omission of the word "primarily," in the first line.

All except the last clause of the 17th (now the 15th) rule was stricken out.

On motion of Mr. McHenry, the Premiums for "Premium animals" were dispensed with.

Sundry verbal amendments to the rules were made, and the printed list as now published are made to conform thereto.

On motion of Mr. McHenry, it was ordered that the General Secretary be directed to prepare a roll of the members, alphabetically arranged.

On motion of Mr. J. N. Goldsborough it was ordered that horses which may have taken either of the regular Premiums, shall not be debarred from competing in the trials of speed.

A communication from Mr. J. C. Walsh, was received and read, suggesting, in view of the impulse now being given to the cultivation of the vine, that a Premium be offered by the Society for American Wine—which on motion, was considered, and Premiums offered accordingly.

On motion, a recess was then taken till 4 o'clock.

Afternoon Session. Mr. McHenry, from the Committee on Agricultural Productions, offered the following report, which was read and concurred in.

The Committee on Agricultural Productions beg leave to award the Premium of \$20, offered for the "best 5 acres of corn," to M. Tighman Goldsborough, Esq., of Talbot Co., as the only competitor who complied fully with the requisitions of the Society as to this Premium, and who besides has furnished a statement embracing much useful information, and marked by the careful accuracy which is characteristic of that gentleman. To Edmund P. White, Esq., of Caroline Co., Va., your committee award the Premium of \$10, for the best single acre of corn.

RAMSAY MCHEHRY,
N. B. WORTHINGTON,
JAMES N. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Mr. Cooke from the Committee appointed to examine the accounts of Mr. Sands, Treasurer

pro tem. reported that they had found them correct, and presented the following statement of the finances of the Society, viz:

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer, on account of Premiums undrawn, for the Exhibition of 1854, \$53 25

Amount overpaid by the Treasurer on account of the Exhibition of 1855, \$4 54

Leaving a balance in Treasurer's hands, June 3d, 1856, of \$48 71

Premiums still due for the Exhibition of 1854, \$138 00

Premiums do do 1855, 143 00

For other accounts, about 200 00

By note for money borrowed to meet expenses of Society, in payment of former debt, 1,150 52

By note for lumber at last Exhibition, 432 88

Total due by Society, \$2,064 40

Mr. Cooke, from the same Committee, reported that they had examined the Marshal's accounts, and find that there was a balance due to the Marshal of \$69.93. The report was accepted.

Mr. M. Goldsborough, tendered to the Executive Committee his resignation as Marshal—which on motion, was laid on the table.

The Ex. Committee then, on motion, adjourned.

Test, SAML. SANDS, Sec'y.

THE NEW GUANO ISLANDS.—The following gives the results of an analysis of guano from one of the islands of the American Guano Company:—

I have analysed four samples of Guano from the American Guano Company, taken by myself from four parcels in a box opened in the presence of the Company. They yield as follows:—

No. 1—Top Parcel.		No. 3—Dark Sample.	
Sulphate of lime.....	69.51	Phosphate of lime.....	46.10
Phosphate of lime.....	8.00	Sulphate of lime.....	19.42
Carbonate of lime.....	1.00	Chloride of sodium.....	2.12
Organic matter yielding ammonia.....	3.16	Carbonate of lime.....	2.62
Chloride of sodium.....	2.80	Organic matter yielding ammonia.....	11.44
Oxide of iron.....	1.22	Silica and alumina.....	1.14
Water with loss.....	14.31	Water with loss.....	17.16
100.00		100.00	

No. 2—Large Pieces.		No. 4—Lowest Sample.	
Phosphate of lime.....	81.24	Sulphate of lime.....	64.95
Sulphate of lime.....	4.84	Phosphate of lime.....	5.20
Chloride of sodium.....	2.06	Carbonate of lime.....	2.14
Oxide of iron.....	71	Organic matter yielding ammonia.....	4.25
Organic matter yielding ammonia.....	6.10	Chloride of sodium.....	3.86
Water.....	3.60	Silica and alumina.....	3.49
Silica and alumina.....	1.45	Water with loss.....	16.11
100.00		100.00	

[Signed] JAMES R. CHILTON, Chemist.

Dr. D. Stewart, to whom was submitted the above, writes us as follows:—

"Peruvian guano contains very little ammonia, but it contains about fifty per cent. of 'organic matter yielding ammonia,'—whereas the average of these analyses is about 6½ per cent. or about one eighth of that in Peruvian. Peruvian contains about 25 per cent. of phosphates, whereas one of these analyses shows 81 per cent. I estimate No. 1 worth about \$40, No. 2 \$45, No. 3 \$36, No. 4 \$36 per ton. Yours respectfully,

DAVID STEWART, M. D.

[The above shows that our hopes of relief from the Peruvian monopoly, so far as these islands are concerned, are rather slender—Guano of as good quality can be got nearer home.—Ed. Far.]

HICKOK'S CIDER AND WINE MILL.

The annexed cut presents one view of the Cider and Wine Mill of Mr. Hickok, (another view will be found in the advertisement pages of this No. together with a particular description of the Mill.) This mill is *portable*, and the advantages are represented to be such, as should induce every planter having an orchard to possess one.—It is spoken very highly of in Pennsylvania, where it is much in use, and has had awarded to it at the N. York American Institute a Silver Medal, a premium from the Franklin Institute at Philadelphia, and a number of other undoubted evidences of approval. Among the advantages of this mill, are—

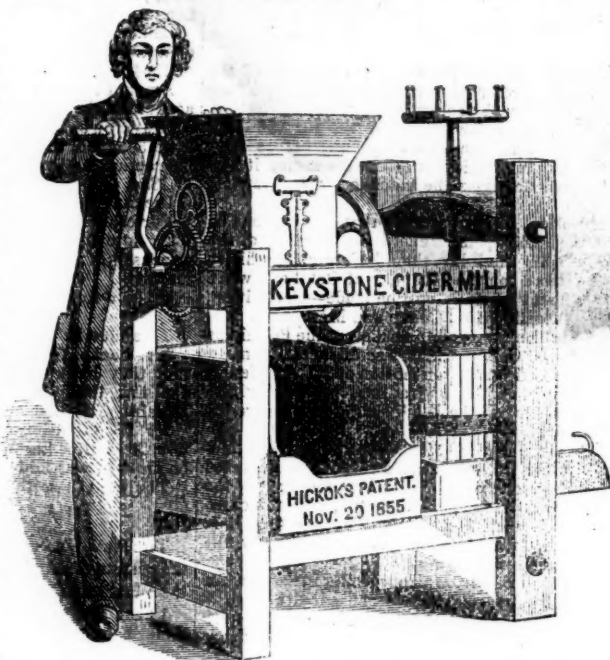
1st. Its portableness. It is a small affair, which can be carried from one farm to another, and if you choose from one tree to another, where the apples can be taken up and put into the Mill.

2d. Its use in all kinds of weather and in all places.—It can be used under a shed and in the barn, in the kitchen or in the cellar; in cold and rainy weather, when it would be inconvenient to make cider out doors. And then, again, cider can be made in small quantities, as well as large, just as it may be needed and circumstances make it necessary.

The N. York Country Gentleman thus speaks of the Mill:—This mill will, attended by two men, when properly worked according to directions, make six to twelve barrels of cider a day. The peculiar arrangement of the cylinders is such that no description of apple will clog it, but it will at all times work free and fast—qualities that are indispensable, and it is believed no other machine possesses. No straw or bag is needed, and the cider comes out fast and clear. Any boy fourteen years of age can press as readily as a man.

While it possesses all the advantages of the old style press, it has none of its objections. One quart or one barrel can be made at any time the owner chooses to use it, and he can work up the apples off of each tree to suit his convenience.—The Mill is worked either by hand or horse power, and goes very easily.

Extract of a letter from New Kent C. H. Va., to the editors of the American Farmer, dated 17th June:—"The crops in this part of the world are decidedly short. Wheat is thin and very late—corn missing and late—oats a failure. I hope you will not cease to fight for the farmers' interest, against all sharpers and monopolists, whether native or foreign,—there is but one opinion in these quarters, in regard to your controversy with Bareda & Bro. and that is, they got, at your hands, what they deserve."



A correspondent in Prince Edward Co., Va. under date of 3d June, says:—"The wheat crop is very discouraging in this section—take it 20 miles square from this place, there is not half a crop on the land—late seeding spewed up in March and died. What little I sowed about the first of October looks tolerable well, the balance is very inferior, although the last seeded was on tobacco land and much the strongest. I calculate to make about 3-5 of a crop, compared with last year. I hope the convention, to meet at Washington, will be able to do something on the sale and importation of Guano—unless we have some fixed system in the Guano trade, better do without it entirely,—between the agent and speculators they will skin the farmer."

A subscriber to the American Farmer, at Richmond, Va., who was uncertain whether his subscription had been paid up, writes as follows:

"Let me hear from you—for I not only always want to be even with you, but I am anxious to be a little ahead. I would raise a colt every year to pay for your paper, if less would not procure it. It has been of invaluable aid to me, and I hope to see it once a month while I live."

The New York State Agricultural Society, with a view of testing the present modes of cultivation and ascertaining the manure best adapted to Indian Corn, propose to award premiums for the most satisfactory experiments with the various fertilizers now in use, and have issued instructions and specifications for those who desire to enter into competition.

GUANO CONVENTION—THE CROPS.

CLIFTON, FREDERICK COUNTY, }
Md., June 13th, 1856. }

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

GENTLEMEN:—I am sorry that I cannot congratulate you and the consumers of guano upon the action of our late Convention. We have done just *nothing at all*—after all that had been said and done previous to our meeting. I may be allowed to add, that I was much disappointed and mortified, nay disgusted, and was forcibly reminded of the fable of "the mountain and the mouse." Yet you, my dear sirs, have the satisfaction of knowing that you did *your duty well*, even more than was required or expected, and as one of your committee, permit me to tender you my humble acknowledgements. So far as I am personally concerned, I care little, whether Peru (in her great condescension) will deign to send us a handful of her boasted fertilizer or not, for thanks to a bountiful Providence, my farms are capable of producing wheat and corn without any foreign aid; but for others I am interested, and every feeling of my nature revolts and arrays itself in opposition to monopoly and oppression. However, "let patience have her perfect work."

It will be remembered, that on the evening of our Convention, we indulged in a *colloquial entertainment*, and thus elicited information as to the prospect of the *wheat crop* in the different States represented. I left before the close, and thinking you would like to hear from our part of Frederick county, I took my pen in hand to enlighten you. My lot has been cast (if I may be permitted to say so)—due deference to the Eastern Shore, marl and shell, &c.—in the garden spot of Maryland, the very heart of the wheat and corn growing district No. 1, where we sometimes almost think we hear "the trees clap their hands," and all nature vying in thanksgivings and praises to "the God of nature;" and up to the middle of May our prospect was never better for a good crop of wheat, (except that it appeared *rather backward*;) but within the last three weeks many of our farmers are forced to acknowledge a great falling off in the crop; this is attributed generally to the *fly*, which altho' it has not done its work so *effectually* as we heard of in parts of Virginia and Delaware, yet, has seriously crippled and retarded our staple. Some talk of a half crop, others more or less; in the Valley of Frederick, I am persuaded it will exceed it, yet we are not out of "the bushes." What I fear *most now*, for our immediate neighborhood, is *rust*. I have rarely had a better show for straw, on, say 150 acres, but as I intimated above, I apprehend rust, unless the weather up to the time of cutting be unusually favorable—i. e. moderately warm, dry, and windy.

We do not expect to cut any wheat in this month, and my experience teaches me, that almost invariably, when our wheat does not ripen by the last of June, the quality is bad, and the yield correspondingly small.

So you will perceive, Messrs. Editors, that our prospect is any thing but flattering, for even when we have a plenty of straw on the ground, the chances for a good yield is not flattering.

A word about our *corn*, and I am done. Never since my recollection have I heard the response so often, "my corn never came up so badly." Many have planted three times, and it is yet to be seen how it will stand. This may be accounted for, or attributed to two causes; the first is, the heavy

rains baked the clayey soil on the early planting, and injured seed caused the second. No corn that stood out through the winter sprouted or came up well. And here we are, when our corn should be half knee high, harrowing and replanting. Thank Providence, I was more fortunate. Within a few weeks of our usual harvest, and I opine notwithstanding the large crop of *locust blossoms*, we had better not be in too great a hurry to sell our old crop, which is now *pretty generally housed*,—a fact, don't laugh. I know some out yet. I believe I am done. I fear you will say, "amen." Make what use you please of this, only suppress the name of your sympathising friend and well wisher,

J. L. D.

THE HESSIAN FLY.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—That little insect, so destructive to the wheat crop, of which we have heard so much, and seen so little, has been among us in this section; and his destructive foot prints bear ample evidence that he has not been idle, nor his ravages of an ordinary character. Having been in this country fourteen years, the latter half of which I had been farming without ever having seen any effects of the *fly*, I regarded its existence as chimerical, and sowed my wheat crop earlier (as also did many others) every year, without its receiving any injury, and last year sowed some in the month of August. It afforded fine pasture all fall and winter, but is entirely destroyed by the fly. Where there were forty or fifty stalks to the bunch, only one, and in many places not a single stalk has put up. The fly eggs in the flax seed state, are embedded around the stalks next to the roots. Nor is the earliest sowing alone exempt. Many fields sown in the latter part of October are injured: but many fields sown very late, after winter had set in, from the prospect still continuing to be good for remunerating prices, are free of fly. I had been informed that even some of these had been injured by the fly, but on examination, there was no fly egg in them, but the cause of their bad appearance was that the *seed had got heated* in the sun after it was thrashed last summer. My conclusion then, is this, the two causes, the unsound seed and the fly, together with some little injury from winter freezing, will make the wheat crop less than last year, though about twice as much had been sown. My observation, and limited experience, leave me no doubt that there is a remedy in *late sowing*, but it increases the *liability to rust*. Could the insects not be starved out by turning under every particle of vegetation in the summer, and harrowing as soon as it made its appearance again, so as to keep the field clear of every thing for them to subsist on? I hope this communication will be the means of eliciting something from your pen, or some of your contributors on the subject, for the time has arrived when the farmer consults his books, as the physician uses his medical library or his journal, and the one can there find the means of driving the ravaging enemy from his field crops, as the other expels the various diseases from the fair temples they would fain destroy.

Yours respectfully,

B. F. S. DAVIS.

POST OAK SPRINGS, ROANE, CO., TENN.

COLOMBIAN GUANO.—Some interesting experiments are being made with this guano, which will be reported in our next.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, July 1, 1856.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Per Annum, \$1 in advance—6 copies for \$5—12 copies for \$10—30 copies for \$30.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For 1 square of 8 lines, for each insertion, \$1—1 square per annum, \$10—larger advertisements in proportion—for a page, \$100 per annum; a single insertion, \$15, and \$12 50 for each subsequent insertion, not exceeding five.

Address,

S. SANDS & WORTHINGTON,


Publishers of the "American Farmer,"

At the State Agricultural Society's Rooms, 128 Baltimore-st.
Over the "American Office," 5th door from North-st.

OUR NEW VOLUME.

We contemplated a more thorough improvement in our journal than we have been able to accomplish in the present number. The large space which the proceedings of the Guano Convention occupies, and which is meet and proper for us to publish, has disarranged our plans somewhat. We intend to embellish every number for the ensuing year with several engravings of cattle, horses, sheep and other stock, implements and machinery, plans of rural architecture and farm buildings, &c. Particular attention will be paid to the management of farm stock, and also to the improvement of the soil, by the most judicious system of green manuring, &c. In short, we feel a renewed energy for our work, and we hope and expect to go ahead, having an eye to that judiciousness which, our old readers will bear us witness, has ever characterised our course. We have the inclination, and we feel that we have the ability, to make a better paper than we have heretofore published; and if health and strength are spared us, we hope to prove our gratitude to our many, many friends, who have aided and cheered us by their kind support and approbation, and enabled us, notwithstanding the numerous competitors in the race which are daily springing up, to keep on our course, yearly increasing in prosperity to our journal, and we trust in usefulness to the great producing class of our country, to whose interest the prime of our life has been devoted, with a zeal that has never flagged, and with a singleness of purpose which has never faltered, to contend with all our might for the rights and privileges of those by whom we have been so liberally sustained in our labors.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—The commencement of a new volume is the appropriate time for requesting our friends to remit their subscription money for the ensuing year—and we would particularly remind those in arrears, and to whom bills were forwarded in January last, which have not been

attended to (and there are a few such,) to add \$1 for the new volume, and remit us as early as possible. We also renew our appeal to each subscriber to obtain us at least one new reader. Our expenses will be very considerably increased during the ensuing year, but we will feel fully remunerated for our outlays by punctuality on the part of our subscribers.  Forward on the dollar then without delay.

The Village Record, Pa., says, "Six years since, J. D. Perkins, of Coatesville, Chester Co., bought a mare for \$120. On the 14th ult. he sold the mare and her family at public auction. The mother (with foal) now a cripple, brought \$62; her first colt, five years old; \$196; her second \$169; her third \$154; her fourth, an unbroke colt, \$90—total \$681. Farmers, raise your own horses."

THE NEXT SHOW OF THE MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We present to our readers with the present number of the American Farmer, the list of Premiums, Rules and Regulations, and Judges for the next Exhibition of our State Society, to be held at the Show Grounds in this city on the 21st, 22d, 23d and 24th October next. Much care has been taken by the Executive Committee to select as Judges, such gentlemen as were supposed would give their services to the Society for the occasion, and who were well known to be qualified for the judicious and impartial discharge of the duty confided to them—and it is to be hoped, in case any of them should find it out of their power to be present, that notice will be given to the Secretary, in order that the vacancy may be filled in due time by the Executive Committee, before the opening of the Show, and thus avoid the necessity of hastily filling up vacancies at the time when the duties should be in a course of fulfilment.

The Premiums offered by the Society are, as heretofore, on the most liberal scale, and the field of competition open to residents of all the States who may comply with our rules, and a most hearty welcome is tendered to breeders, manufacturers, horticulturists and farmers and planters of all the States and Territories of the Union, to unite with us in the grand display which we contemplate making the coming Fall. The United States Agricultural Society holds its Exhibition at Philadelphia prior to our Show, and it would be advantageous, no doubt, to exhibitors of Stock and Machinery from the North and West, at that Show, to extend their visit to our beautiful grounds, and an invitation will be made to that effect—we hope to a considerable extent with success. The Virginia State Exhibition succeeds ours, and the facilities usually afforded by the Transportation Companies, will enable a closer intimacy be-

tween the several societies this year than heretofore; the oversight of last year being obviated, by which the Shows of the Maryland and Virginia Societies were unfortunately fixed for the same week, thus preventing that interchange of kind feelings which should be cultivated between those whose philanthropic and praiseworthy efforts are enlisted in the same good cause, though operating under separate or distinct organizations. We have the assurance that many of our Virginia friends will be with us on the occasion, and a most hearty welcome has been promised the members of our Society, through Mr. Cocke, the President of the Virginia Society, who may be present at the Annual Exhibition at Richmond.

Under the new Constitution, the active duties of our Society are placed in charge of an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Corresponding Secretary, and seven members selected from the Vice Presidents and Curators, and we have reason to anticipate that the most beneficial results will ensue. Heretofore, upon the whole body of the officers, consisting of some forty-five or more in number, were devolved the duties now allotted to the Executive Committee—therefore but few deemed it absolutely necessary to be present at the business meetings—but under the present arrangement, each member feels obligated to be present, unless prevented by causes beyond his control—and thus we have a right to expect a more efficient management of the affairs of the Society, which in time, will enable it to overcome the pecuniary and other difficulties which have pressed upon it. The present Executive Committee have entered upon their duties in a right spirit, and we hope the result of their labors will be found eminently beneficial to the interests of the Society.

A WELL MANAGED FARM.

We have, on several occasions, made for the benefit of our readers, some notes of suggestions, facts, &c., for which we were indebted to a friend, in whose judgment we had much confidence.—There is great difference, however, between saying and doing, and farmers as well as others sometimes "talk like a book"—who are woefully defective in practice. We have wished, therefore—though we had no misgiving in our own mind—to confirm our opinion in this case by "ocular proof," and to furnish our readers with the detailed practice of a successful farmer. We availed ourselves therefore, recently, of the friendly invitation of Mr. John Q. Hewlett, to pay him a visit at Athol-wood, his country place.

Athol-Wood is on the Frederick turnpike, about four miles from Baltimore, and contains one hundred and thirty acres; of this, about twenty acres are taken up by a beautiful grove of native trees,

the house, lawn, &c.,—leaving one hundred and eleven in actual cultivation. It will appear, therefore, that Mr. Hewlett is not a large farmer, as regards number of acres—the deficiency being supplied in a measure, however, by bringing into cultivation an equal quantity of new land, lying underneath the surface—a sort of *terra incognita*—unknown land—which writers have frequently mentioned, and which is generally supposed to exist, but rarely explored. The general impression among farmers being, that it was made for the purpose of making solid foundations for a few dwelling houses, and for holding up the four or five inches of surface soil which they cultivate. In going along, therefore, we will set it down for a fact which has been positively ascertained, that every man who has a hundred acres of land, of five inches depth of soil, may have a hundred acres more, if he will take it up, which will be worth more to him than that of his neighbor, that he would like to buy at thirty or forty, or fifty dollars per acre. The first thing that strikes us in looking at this farm is the absence of cross fences—there being no inside fence except that which divides the arable land from the lawn, wood land, &c. Cross-fencing is, undoubtedly, a venerable institution, established by certain highly respectable gentlemen, known as "our fore-fathers."—Timber being very much in their way, they found it a convenient fashion of getting it off the land—a handsome method of piling it up: producing an air of order highly agreeable in the wilderness, and affording some convenience in the management of stock, during the hurry of getting up new farms. Our friend, having a habit of calculating cost, without reference to old habits and prejudices, finds that when fencing timber has to be bought and hauled, or a large body of valuable land must be kept in timber for the purpose of keeping up fences,—that fencing is a very expensive item, and that the convenience or advantage of grazing the small quantity of stock necessary for a grain farm, for about six months in the year, is no compensation for such an expenditure.

We find therefore that up to the middle of June, the time of our visit, the stock had not left the barn yard at all—being supplied there abundantly with grass, water and litter. They are allowed somewhat later in the season, to spend their Sundays and high days in the wood land pasture, and after the hay harvest they graze to some extent the after-math. They are not so numerous that they can graze it closely, and are so gentle that a little boy whose business it is to follow them, has no trouble to prevent their trespassing on the crops. The boy is provided with a convenient instrument, and required to spend his leisure time in destroying weeds, and when the Cattle betake them to the shade he probably follows a good example.—It is not found that the Cattle suffer at all from the

requisite degree of confinement. Mr. H. suggests however, that it is desirable to have them accustomed to it while young, and that those breeds should be selected for the purpose of soiling, whose natural habits are quiet. His stock is composed of Ayrshires and grade Durhams. The lord of the barn yard is a beautiful Ayrshire, rivalling in symmetry and size the noble Durhams. He seemed perfectly contented with the limits of his domain, is manifestly no fillibuster, but satisfied to let outside barbarians bear the troubles and cares of the world so long as they provide abundantly for his wants. In this respect he has no cause of complaint. During the time that flies are most troublesome, the Cattle are kept through the heat of the day in a dark but thoroughly ventilated stable, and turned out in the evening.

The arable land is divided into six fields, averaging about eighteen acres. The first planted in corn upon the sod, the second in field peas after corn, and fallowed in August for wheat, the third in wheat with grass seeds, and fourth, fifth and sixth in hay.

The corn field of this year is upon a turf turned down as deep as three strong horses could turn it. It is planted three and a half feet each way, and two stalks left to a hill. The whole soil above the turf is thoroughly pulverised by repeated working, and has no vestige of grass growing upon it. And let some of our friends who think it necessary to have the roots of their corn torn up after it has tasselled, for the purpose of killing grass, make a note of this, that on the 14th day of June, the corn being not above eighteen inches high, it has received its last working. This is not altogether from choice, and Mr. H. would have it cultivated longer, but his hay harvest is at hand. He evidently does not think its further cultivation important, or he would no doubt find a way to have it done. His crop of corn last year exceeded fourteen barrels, and the preceding year when cut short by the great drought was eleven barrels to the acre.

The crop of peas are at the date mentioned about three inches out of the ground, and beautifully "set." The land being first ploughed, the seed then sowed, and harrowed and rolled in, about the last of May. He sows two bushels of seed to the acre. In this he exceeds the usual quantity by a good deal. His rule being it will be found, as to seeds generally to put about double the quantity which is usually thought sufficient. We find among our friends much doubt as to the practicability of turning under such a mass of vegetable matter. Mr. H. is of the belief that some things can be done as well as others, and that what ought to be done can be done, and certainly succeeds in this, as in most things which he undertakes. A heavy harrow drags the vines down in the direction to be ploughed, a three horse plough follows turning them under, and a hand with a fork distributes in the next furrow such as may be dragged

up by the harrow. So large a quantity of matter turned under, will tend to leave the land too open and porous, and light lands especially should be heavily rolled to counteract this effect.

The wheat crop is sown upon the pea fallow by the fifteenth of September. In six years he has never suffered from rust but once, and that when his seeding was delayed by drought till sometime in October, nor has he been troubled with fly at all. The blue stem white is the variety sown, it is riddled to clear it of cockle, cheat, rye and small grains, and two and a half bushels sown to the acre. We did not pass through the wheat—there was no way of doing that,—but we walked pretty much all around it, and in the way of weeds, saw two heads of garlic and one of cheat, just outside of the wheat, but not a blossom of cockle nor a head of rye, either inside nor outside of it. The crop last year though the straw was unusually short, was thirty six bushels, and this year promises as much. It has been on the six fields successively, forty-two, twenty-eight, (the year that it was rusted,) thirty-two, thirty-eight and a half, thirty-five and thirty-six bushels per acre. The crop upon the land when he bought it was eleven bushels. The largest crop, that of forty-two bushels, was upon a field about one-third of which was a blowing sand, out of which he got the sand used in building his house, and which he found by experiment to be fifteen feet deep. The first crop of peas upon this sand scarcely exceeded six inches. The effect of a heavy dressing of lime upon it was very remarkable, and with bones, guano and another crop of peas produced the crop of wheat. The yield was so large considering the character of the soil, that to make sure of no mistake the field was surveyed again after the grain was taken off.

For the grass crop, one peck of timothy, and one bushel of orchard grass is sown upon the wheat in the fall, and another bushel of orchard grass and a peck of clover seed in the spring. This makes a thorough setting of the ground, and it is at once covered after harvest. The crop of hay this year it is thought will average two tons, though that is above the usual average. Timothy alone is not a favourite grass with Mr. H.; it ripens late, giving weeds a chance to seed, leaves the ground exposed at the hottest season, and makes hay inferior, in his opinion, to orchard grass and clover. These latter, besides coming off the ground much earlier, have both the very desirable quality of springing again, immediately after the scythe.

The wood land has upon it a luxuriant growth of orchard grass and clover, for which it has been prepared by trimming out the indifferent trees and undergrowth, raking, burning and harrowing.—A garden of three acres is taken off from one of the fields, and, under the management of an experienced gardener, affords a superabundant supply

of the best vegetables in their season, besides which were a very promising crop of sugar beet and parsnips for the cows. Nor let us pass over that strawberry bed, of which we have promised to testify, which has borne fruit nine successive years, without failure, and shows no necessity for a change of soil. It has not even been renewed by its own runners; these are kept carefully cut off, and the ground between the rows properly cultivated. The quality of the fruit is of the best character.

Our attention was called to two experiments on top-dressing with guano, which are worthy of remark. One upon a portion of the clover field, where the seed of the previous spring's sowing had failed, and which was re-seeded in the fall—top-dressed with guano, and harrowed. The fall seedling seemed in no degree inferior to the best parts of the field. Another experiment was on a part of the wheat field which presented the appearance, on the opening of spring, of having been almost destroyed. It was at that time top-dressed with guano, and now is full up with the surrounding crop—the top-dressing being distinctly marked by a dark green line, showing a vigorous and luxuriant, though later growth.

The manuring for a six years' rotation, besides the pea fallow and the barn-yard supplies, is fifty bushels of fresh water-slacked lime, twenty bushels of bone dust, and two hundred pounds of Peruvian Guano. It must be remarked here, that Mr. Hewlett lives in the country from a true love of country life, and farms for the pleasure of farming. There is no such pleasure without good crops, and he must therefore have the crops at any rate. It is a luxury which he is able and willing to pay for. What he puts upon his land, in the way of expense, therefore, that he may be certain of a crop, may not be the measure of prudence in those who are obliged to look to a profitable return. In the latter case we have reason to believe he would advise a smaller outlay—leaving out the lime or the bones, as the character of the soil, or the known effects of either, might suggest, and would expect a return equal probably to his own. But in our judgment it is much safer to err in the direction of too much, than too little expense; provided, always, as is the case in Mr. H.'s management, thorough cultivation, and all the other requisites of success keep pace with the cost of manuring. Putting the expense of his manuring at thirty dollars per acre, for six years, all other expenses being alike for manured and unmanured land, we have in compensation, for one year, the difference between six barrels of corn per acre and twelve barrels, worth, say, fifteen dollars; for another year, the difference between eleven bushels of wheat and thirty-five, worth, say, thirty dollars; and for three other years, an excess of one ton of hay per acre, worth forty-five dollars for

three years,—or ninety dollars in return for the thirty, in six years, at a moderate estimate. The wheat crop alone, of last year, was worth eighty-two dollars per acre.

Having taken the liberty afforded us, of carrying our readers through the "rotation" of farm management at Athol-Wood, as we return and cross the hospitable threshold, our privilege comes to an end. Many other things, that it might give us pleasure to remark upon, are without the limits of our design in this and other similar excursions we may make—which is to gather practical information in farming, and to set before our readers the light of good examples. Long as we have prosed in this direction alone, we have by no means done justice to the admirable management which characterizes Mr. Hewlett's farming, in all its departments, but making these notes entirely from memory, no doubt much has escaped us, and some things perhaps are inaccurately noted; though we have no doubt they are mainly correct.

THE GUANO CONVENTION.

A large portion of our pages this month is occupied with the report of the proceedings of the Convention which assembled at Washington on the 10th ult., to consult upon the subject of the guano trade—and much as has been said upon the subject, much more we would desire to say, had we the space—but we are admonished by the fact, that other subjects demand a portion of our time and space.

Contrary, no doubt, to the anticipations of many, we can in all sincerity say, that we are entirely satisfied with the result of the proceedings; but perhaps for a different reason than may have suggested itself to the minds of others—at the same time, we candidly admit, we are disappointed in that result. We are satisfied, because we would not have desired to see any stringent measures adopted which were not sanctioned by a degree of unanimity that would have commended them to the approbation of all parties interested in the use of guano—and we were disappointed, because, up to the day of its meeting, we had no recollection of hearing a word against the object of the assembling of the Convention, or the probable results of its deliberations, save from a single source.—Every publication we had seen, (with the exception noted,) all the correspondence we had received upon the subject, and the resolutions of societies which had been adopted, all pointed to the necessity and propriety of the farmers and planters meeting together, to consult upon the best means to be adopted to counteract the machinations of those who, feeling they had the power, determined to use it without any scruples as to the manner in which they made it felt. It is not necessary here to reiterate what has heretofore been said upon this subject, and which is embodied in the proceed

ings of the Convention—but we turn our attention to sundry matters incidentally connected with it.

We have said that up to the day of the meeting of the Convention, we heard but one voice raised against the assembling, or the probable result of the proceedings of the Convention—that voice was from our friends of the *Southern Planter*, who in their May number said enough to throw cold water upon the undertaking, which was followed up in their June number with an elaborate effort, taking strong, and to our mind, extraordinary grounds upon the subject. We have seldom read a document which affected us with more surprise than that of the *Planter* upon this subject—for verily it appeared to us that the kind feelings of the editors had been elicited for every body in any way connected with the business, except those for whose interests it would have been supposed they would have felt most keenly alive. Not only is Mr. Barreda defended, and our course contemned, but the interests of the merchants, dealers or speculators approved, applauded or encouraged—and a lively sympathy is also displayed for the government and people of Peru. The course pursued by all of these parties, it would appear from the reasoning of our friends of the *Planter*, was reasonable, right and proper, and any attempts by the farmers and planters of our country to release themselves from the extortions and exactions under which they have suffered for years, was only worthy of rebuke from those who it was supposed would have been faithful soldiers in the ranks of the opponents of the monopolists. Before we quit the subject, we must be permitted to say that the *Planter*, as well as our valued friend, Mr. Newton, has done us too much honor, in attributing to our difficulties with Mr. Barreda, the procuring cause of the assembling of the Convention, as they appear to indicate. Any one who had read the proceedings of the Delaware Convention, by which that of Washington had been called, will find no ground for such an insinuation. The resolutions will be found embodied in the proceedings we publish in this number, and will speak for themselves, and the proceedings in detail are published in our April No.

On the morning of the day on which the Convention was to meet, the *National Intelligencer* contained a letter from the Hon. *Willoughby Newton*, of Va., regretting his inability to attend the Convention, and making some suggestions, in which he said his views differed “essentially from those which induced the call of the Convention.” Mr. Newton, like the *Planter*, had lost sight of the object of the assembling of the Convention, as set forth in the resolution adopted at Wilmington, and took it for granted that the suggestions which had been made as to the subjects which would or should be introduced at the Convention, were those for which the Convention had absolutely

been called. The object was for a consultation of farmers and planters, as to what was best to be done; and others, like Mr. Newton in his letter, gave their views of what ought to be done, in advance of its assembling.

Mr. Newton in his letter has done us ample justice, (for which we tender him our thanks,) for our efforts to protect the farmers from imposition, and the treatment we received at the hands of the agents of the Peruvian Government, he says “has roused a general feeling of indignation.”

The letter of Mr. Newton no doubt had much influence upon the members of the Convention—and the limited number of delegates from Virginia, which was the largest consumer of the article, caused a disinclination under the circumstances, to press any stringent measures for the adoption of the Convention—and the best course to pursue, it was urged, was to dispense with the Peruvian article as much as possible; to use it, if at all, with other guanos, and by every possible legal means to strive to effect a reduction in the price of it.

The Report to the Convention embraces a history of this guano controversy for the last six years. It was prepared mainly from official documents, and was received by the Convention with much consideration, as embodying useful information which should be widely disseminated throughout the country, and by a resolution, unanimously adopted, it was ordered to be published in the *American Farmer* and other agricultural papers, and the thanks of the Convention tendered to the Committee which reported it. The proceedings of the Convention, which we publish, are mainly made up from the report thereof published in the *National Intelligencer*.

THE CROPS.

During the sitting of the Guano Convention, at Washington, on the 10th June, the members from the various quarters of the States represented, were called upon to state to the assembly the indications of the crops for the present year—the result will be found embodied in the proceedings. In addition to which, we have taken especial care to note every evidence which has come to our knowledge, and can truly say, that we have not, for many years, heard such universal complaint, as has come up to us during the past month, from the middle sections of the country. 'Tis true, since some of the accounts have been received, we have had some fine rains, which no doubt has been refreshing to the crops, and with many of the productions of the soil, much good will no doubt result from them; but for the wheat, we fear they have come too late. In addition to letters written to the editors, we make the following brief extracts from various country papers upon the subject:

The Alexandria, (Va.) Gazette, says :

"We give the reports in the newspapers concerning the prospects of the crops. The farmers must judge for themselves by what they see and read. In Ohio, there seems to be a complete failure of the corn crop, but the wheat looks very fine. The drought in this region has been unfavourable, and we hear many complaints, especially about the wheat.

The same paper, of 20th June, says :

"Some of the Farmers in Culpeper have commenced harvesting. One or two of the farmers in this immediate neighborhood have also commenced. In Clarke, also, some are at work, we learn.—Generally, the whole country will be busy in securing the wheat, in about a week from this time. We do not believe the yield will be a good one, in most of the counties. There are exceptions in particular localities."

The Warrenton, Va., Flag, says :

"We have recently returned from a short visit to the Valley of Virginia, where from our own observation, and all the information we could receive, the general aspect of the wheat crop is more unpromising than it has been for several years. Even the rich, productive bottoms of the North and South branches of the Shenandoah, will not yield more than half a crop. In this county the fly and other natural causes have nearly completed the work of destruction."

"According to the Winchester Virginian, the fly, weeds and dry weather have so injured the wheat, that more than a half crop, if that, cannot be expected in Frederick, Clarke or Hampshire, or any of the counties of the north valley of Virginia. Corn and the pastures are suffering for rain."

The wheat crop in Michigan, wherever the snow laid undisturbed by the winds during the winter, was never better or more promising than it now is; but where the ground was exposed, and the snow swept away, the crop is entirely destroyed. In number, about one-third of the fields are said to have been so swept, to the destruction of about one-third the extent of those fields.

"A gentleman who has just returned from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, informs us that the ravages of the fly in the wheat fields in that section, have been great, and that the crop there is almost totally destroyed."—*Alex. Gaz.*

The Romney Intelligencer says:—"We hear complaints from various sections of our county of great injury to the wheat and rye, by the late severe frosts."

"While complaints are very general throughout the county that the latter wheat crop is greatly damaged by the fly and drought, we occasionally meet with a sample of early sown wheat that is but slightly injured. We have some stalks of the last mentioned kind now at our office, which measure 4 feet 8 inches in height, and promise to give a fair yield. The field from which this was taken belongs to Miss Nannie Briscoe, near Middletown."—*Port Tobacco Times.*

"The Corn Crop.—We regret to state; that in various quarters of this State, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, the farmers have been compelled to transplant their corn this spring. The cause is attributed to the destruction of the germ of the grain, by the extreme cold weather of last winter. We are informed by those who planted corn, which

had been exposed in open cribs, and some that had been kept in barns, that shoots from the exposed grain have failed to come up, while the grain kept in barns sent forth shoots at the regular time, and looks well. If this be the case, it will not do for our farmers to expose corn, intended for use, in an open corn crib. They will be under the necessity of protecting it from the extreme cold at least. It was said, that when the corn was gathered last fall, there was considerable sap in the cob, and this, of course, is an additional reason why it has been killed by the cold. The frozen grain, when examined, proves to be dry, and easily rubbed to powder, while that unaffected by the frost retains the natural moisture always observable in the living grain."—*Phila. Commercial List.*

A letter from North End, Va., to the editors of the American Farmer, says:—"I can speak with certainty of the crops in two or three sections of country. I lately visited the counties of Hanover and King William—both justly celebrated for their wheat crops—and found them, with but few exceptions, very inferior to an average year. I have never before seen the same extent of injury from the fly, principally on the corn land. In the counties of Gloucester and Matthews, what with the winter killing and Hessian Fly, the crops will be very short. From the various accounts I have received in relation to the crops in the eastern part of the State, I fear we shall fall very far short of an average, perhaps little more than a half crop. The quality, however, I am happy to state, will be very good, unless some immediate disaster befalls it. It is now almost too late for rust."

A letter to the Farmer, from Talbot, Md., says:—"That the recent rains are giving the corn a rapid progress where the ground is well cultivated; but that the wheat in the county, in many places, I am told, have suffered very much from fly, and that left on fields that have been attacked, so stunted in growth as to make it impracticable to save."

The Hessian Fly. This most annoying enemy to the farmer, has, for some time past, been tacitly engaged in gathering his hordes about the wheat fields, in the vicinity of the city. In Prince George, we learn they are carrying on the work of devastation, and giving the farmer no little anxiety and perplexity. On one farm alone, not two miles and a half from the city, the murderous insect has taken the privilege of appropriating over one thousand bushels of wheat to luxuriate upon for the season.—*Petersburg Express.*

The wheat crop, in this neighborhood, which some weeks since gave promise of an abundant yield, is now, we are sorry to say, in an almost ruined condition. The fly has made its appearance, and the fields present a gloomy prospect.

We are in the midst of a severe drought, one almost unparalleled for this season. The Tobacco plants in the early beds are becoming overgrown, and are fast failing; and under no circumstances can the usual crop be planted. Unless we have rain in a few days, the crops must be extremely short.—*Maiden Gaz.*

The Grain Crops in Kentucky, says the Louisville Courier, have been almost hopelessly ruined by the fly. Drought is prevailing there also. The fruit crop will also be a failure.

The Crops in Eastern Virginia.—The Lynchburg Republican fears that the wheat crop in Eastern

Virginia, both above and below tide-water, and also in the valley, will be a very short one. Of the wheat and other crops it says: There was at least one-fourth more seeded last fall than usual, but the fly, joint-worm, and the chinch bug, one or more, and the very hard winter, have made sad havoc with the wheat. The Oat crop promises badly at this time, and the Tobacco crop can't be planted before the 20th of this month. Take it all in all, the prospect for the farmers is not good—the fly, joint-worm, chinch bug, and the hard winter on Wheat—the scarcity of Tobacco plants, the dry spring on the Oats, promises to curtail very much the income of the planter.

The Crops. Until now we have felt serious apprehensions that the protracted drought of May would render it utterly impracticable for the farmers of our community to get a good stand of Tobacco. The rains, which have fallen within the last four or five days, have dispelled these fears. We have never known a better season for planting. The ground is thoroughly moist, and yet not miry. Plants, as far as we are informed, are sufficiently abundant, and everything at present augurs well for a full crop.

"As to grain, however, the rain has come too late. The wheat can now never recover from the effects of the dry season. The Oat crop must inevitably be short. And, unless the seasons for corn shall prove propitious, an unusual scarcity of grain in this region may be safely predicted.—*Clarksville Va. Tobacco Plant.*

The Pittsburgh Post has the following:—

Poor Prospect for the Corn Crop—Our exchanges from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and other heavy corn growing states, speak despondingly of the newly planted corn. The first planting did not generally come up, the second was injured by the cut-worm, and lastly the recent nipping frosts have played sad havoc with what remained. It is the same in Alleghany and neighboring counties and, we fear, throughout the State. The cold snap last Thursday and Friday nights has blighted vegetation very much, particularly the tender shoots of Corn which had just made their appearance after a second planting. It is now rather late for replanting, and the ill success that has so far attended their efforts is rather discouraging.

An intelligent gentleman, who has been farming for fourteen years in the Piedmont country, and who has lately passed through that whole section, besides six of the finest wheat growing counties of the Virginia valley, writes to the Baltimore Sun, under date of the 2d inst. as follows:

"The ravages of the fly on the wheat crop in Virginia this season have been beyond all precedent. On the tide-water, in the Piedmont region, and in the fine valley of Virginia, it has alike shortened the crop one-half—and now the joint worm having commenced its work it seems there will be but little left for the sickle. With a long and universal drought now prevailing, it is impossible for it to recover enough to make half a crop. The corn scarcely showing above the ground was, in many places cut down by the frost of the 30th of May.—There is a very great scarcity of grass owing to the drought."

The Crops.—The Rockville, Montgomery county, Md., Journal says:

Preparations for harvest are rife all around us, and the prospects for good crops are not so flatter-

ing as we might wish them, yet our farmers, no doubt, will go to the work of securing them with cheerful and thankful spirits.

Maryland.—During the past week we have heard much complaint of the fly cutting the wheat in this county. The growth of the young corn has also been checked by the recent cold weather, and it is reported that the corn has come up very badly. The grass and gardens are suffering very much for rain. The peach crop was seriously injured by the severe cold last winter, and promises to be unusually light.—*Easton Star.*

Gloomy Prospect—We have advices from almost every district and section of our county in reference to the present agricultural prospect, and we are truly pained to state, that all accounts represent the condition of the wheat, corn and oat crop as unfavorable and unpromising beyond any experience of late years. On Tuesday last, we conversed with a gentleman from one of the lower districts of the county, and we were assured that, in his section, there were, at least, a thousand bushels of seed wheat that would not yield as much as was seeded. The corn and oat crops are suffering for want of rain, and the tobacco plants in many localities are represented as being greatly injured by the fly.—*St. Mary's (Md.) Beacon.*

Fine Wheat.—The Cow Pea.—We have on our table three samples of well-filled and beautiful headed wheat grown at "Sherwood Forest." They were worth looking at. A gentleman who saw the crop of Mr. Fitzhugh some ten days since, stated to us that he thought 6,000 bushels would be harvested on a little over 300 acres of seeded. Twenty bushels an acre as an average is something to be proud of this season.

We believe that guano, if not entirely discarded, is used to an extent so limited at Sherwood Forest, that its abandonment would not be felt. "Cow-Pea fallow," we believe is the term, that produced the crop of wheat we have noted. The cow-pea is one of the greatest fertilizers, when ploughed under, that has ever been used, and the effects are not transitory, but may be seen in after cropping.—*Fredericksburg, (Va.) Herald.*

Red Fly in the Wheat.—We saw at the Corn and Flour exchange this morning, a bunch of wheat, taken promiscuously from a field near Deer Creek, Harford county, Md., each head, and nearly every grain, of which were filled with what is termed the "Red Weevil," completely destroying it. The straw and heads pre-ent, at first sight, a healthful appearance, but upon closer examination it is discovered that there can be no yield. How far the ravages of this insect extend in that region or in Maryland, is not known, but if very general, the crop must suffer seriously. It was first discovered in our State last year. We had heard of its destructiveness, some years ago, in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and other states.—*Baltimore Patriot.*

The Crops.—The Louisville Ky. Courier says—Our intelligence from all parts of the State, with reference to the growing crops, is of the most unfavorable and discouraging character. The wheat and other small grain, has in many sections been hopelessly ruined by the fly and various insects.—Besides, the drouth has been so severe and protracted, that the corn has materially suffered. The latter, however, does not seem to be the opinion of some farmers. They entertain that a "dry June" is favorable to that crop.

FREE ACID IN SOILS.

We have, on several occasions, attempted to neutralize this common notion about "uncombined free acid" in soils. Hear, however, what the *New England Farmer*—one of our ablest and most intelligent exchanges—says: "The presence of free uncombined acids in the soil, affords one of the most insuperable barriers to successful and profitable culture, by which the efforts of the farmer can possibly be opposed." "On all lands where there is a growth of red sorrel, acids of some kind abound, in a free and uncombined state, and it is only by adopting some emendatory powers of culture, or by the application of neutralizing substances, such as lime, ashes, &c., that they can ever be rendered fertile in the production of valuable crops."

This is very strongly put. These acids afford "the most insuperable barriers to successful culture." Then, the "red sorrel" *always* shows that "acids of some kind abound, in a free and uncombined state," and is a certain sign of an "insuperable barrier" to improvement or successful culture. This "red sorrel" is one of the most familiar native plants, growing every where. Every body knows what it is—and we put the question to every intelligent man,—does he really consider this plant the indication of an "insuperable barrier," or any sort of a barrier to the improvement of his land? How does the writer know that these "free acids" he speaks of exist in the soil? Because the acid "sorrel" plant grows from the soil? Then does he infer, from the growth of the gooseberry and the currant, that free acids are present, and will lime change the character of these fruits, or by neutralizing the "free acids" deprive the plants of their proper food, and so destroy them? Does an apple tree which bears sour fruit indicate acid in the soil, and will one bearing a fruit of entirely different character not grow along side of it until the acid is neutralized? The absurdity of the idea is here apparent, yet we hear continually of this bug-bear of "free acids" as an "insuperable barrier" to "successful culture," and of the "red sorrel" as its certain index. Put the lime on to neutralize the acid, and *presto* the "sorrel" disappears, and all good things will grow at once.

The writer has a direct personal acquaintance with this plant, from the days that he rolled on the green sward and ate grass like Nebuchadnezzar; chewing up with a *gusto* the little-pointed, pleasantly acid leaves of this "sheep sorrel," as he always called it. When he commenced reading agricultural publications he imbibed these theories about "free acids," and the necessity of neutralizing them, and practiced upon them to his cost; and now, after many years of experience in the cultivation of such soils, he not only thinks but *knows* that the "red sorrel" is not an indication of "free acids," as they are called, or that if it is, then these "free acids" are no impediment what-

ever to the most successful cultivation and improvement.

He has now in cultivation a considerable body of land, not very long since taken out of the woods. He verily thinks that there is not one foot of this land which, if ploughed and thrown out without being cultivated, but would produce *sorrel* in luxuriance. He can point out at this moment a piece of sward thoroughly "set" with white clover and timothy, and not a sprig of "sorrel" apparent, and a part of it, ploughed up during the last summer, cultivated in turnips, and not yet ploughed again, which is covered with a growth of "sorrel," now in full bloom. There they stand, the sorrel showing to the line the ground which was broken up the past season, and the white clover and timothy turf along side, showing as distinctly that the lurking enemy has no power to hurt them.

Immediately adjoining this is a lot of fifteen acres of clover, which has just been harvested, and which justifies fully the remark of the worthy manager who superintended it, that he "don't reckon clover ever does grow much heavier than that." Take the lot through, it was a specimen of luxuriant growth, which we do not recollect to have seen surpassed. Now as we have said, we know that every foot of this ground, if merely ploughed and let alone, would produce "sorrel" luxuriantly. If the "sorrel" indicates a "free acid," and the "free acid" is "an insuperable barrier to successful culture," how *could* such a crop of clover grow? But mark, the clover is classed in the books as a *lime* plant; that is, one of a class of plants to which an abundance of lime is essential. But acid plants and "free acids" show a deficiency of lime; then *where* did such a crop of clover get its supply of lime?

But there were exceptions to the general character of this crop of clover: on a stony knoll where there was little depth of soil, the clover failed and the sorrel had possession. On the spots upon which the grain was shocked and the clover smothered out, the sorrel appeared. At the foot of a tree, where the plough and the hoe failed of a thorough cultivation, sorrel abounded. On a spot where the water failed to get easily away, and a portion of the clover was winter-killed, there the sorrel grew.

It grew every where in the absence of the clover, it grew no where when the clover flourished. Wherever the clover failed, it was readily accounted for by an accidental cause, entirely independent of the "sorrel" or the "acid," and notwithstanding the universal prevalence of this same condition, the clover failed no where when the other necessary conditions were present, viz.: thorough cultivation, and a freedom from accidental obstructions. It is a common thing in passing a field where the clover has failed and the sorrel has possession, to say that the sorrel has overrun the clover—that the land is full of acid and wants lime. Now, so far from overrunning, the sorrel

only grows where the fastidious clover refuses to grow. The clover requires a clean, thorough cultivation; any accidental cause which prevents this, or any general cause, as an excess of vegetable matter not well decomposed, will cause a failure. The "sorrel" is a natural growth, not requiring the same conditions, and will flourish where clover will not. It takes possession, therefore, as a matter of course, when the clover fails from other causes, but is not the cause of that failure.

Now as to lime, it is well known to be upon some soils an exceedingly valuable manure. It is an essential constituent of a fertile soil, and if absent or deficient must be supplied. Its absence or deficiency is not indicated by a growth of acid plants, such as "sorrel," because if so, it would be impossible, without an artificial supply where such plants grow, to produce abundant crops of wheat, corn, clover, &c., such as we know are constantly made upon some such soils. Lime is not necessary upon all soils which produce acid plants; it may be and very probably is necessary upon some soils which produce them—not because these acid plants grow, but because there is a real deficiency which experience testifies to.

But an application of lime may be useful, when it is not necessary. In the writer's experience he finds that his soil contains quite lime enough for the purpose of feeding all plants. But the action of lime goes beyond the mere supply of that which goes into the plant consumption. It has a powerful agency in decomposition, and in preparing other material for use. And the question here arises,—how far it may be useful for this purpose, and what expense would be justified in procuring it? He has thus far found it unnecessary for this purpose, on his land, and not likely to justify any expense. He finds the "sorrel" perfectly under the control of active, thorough cultivation, or to speak more correctly, he finds a deep, thorough, and cleansing cultivation produces that condition of soil, which fits it for the growth of clover, wheat, &c., to which the "sorrel," under such circumstances, always gives way. For him, therefore, and for such soils as his, lime is not necessary as the food of plants, because the natural supply is sufficient, and its agency in decomposition, &c., would not pay the cost of the application. He finds a more economical agency in the use of the plough and the action of the atmosphere.

But it by no means follows, that what is true for some soils and some circumstances is true for all; a sufficiency of lime for the supply of the plant food must be present, either naturally or by application, in all productive soils; and the propriety of the application for other purposes, must depend upon circumstances, of which every man must judge for himself. There are regions of country where the effect is so striking, that no one can hesi-

tate to use it at almost any cost. In other sections the good effect is less apparent, yet a less price may amply justify its use. In other sections, again, while it may not be without good effect in preparing the food of plants, yet if this same action is brought about by ordinary methods of tillage, and the influence of the atmosphere, his labour and expense are lost. In this, as in every question of practice, let farmers learn to exercise sound discretion, untrammelled by fashionable theories. Let each man, while he makes himself acquainted with the best opinions of others, make careful note and observation of the circumstances under which he is operating, and guide his own action by his own judgment.

For the American Farmer.

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Should there be smut this harvest, will the observer be kind enough to examine the smutted heads carefully, it may be he will find all the smut grains punctured through the chaff by some small insect, (several species perhaps,) when in the milk state; the atmosphere being thus admitted into the grain, fermentation may be found to have taken place, and the smut produced. This would account for sound and smutted grains in the same head, and perhaps the only rational way of doing so.

DON'T FORGET.

The Crops.—A letter from King and Queen, Virginia, states that the wheat crop is suffering much in that and adjoining counties from the ravages of the fly and from the dry weather. The farmers thereabout fear a short crop.

WET LANDS.

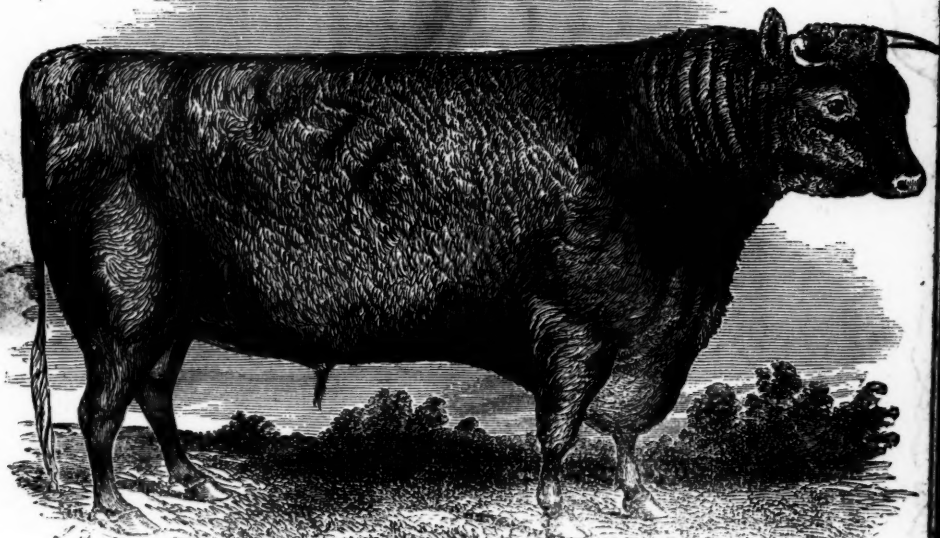
If any of your fields are wet make arrangements to have them thoroughly drained, and take our word for it, that the expense the draining may cost you, will be returned with compound interest in a few years. Your soil once relieved of excess of water, their textures will become greatly improved, their earliness will be increased fully three weeks, and to that extent you may be able to work them earlier in the spring; their productive capacity will be increased at least one-third; they will produce crops of better quality, and withal the health of your place will be meliorated.

BROADCAST CORN.

As your pastures will be giving out in August and September, it would be well to put a few acres in Indian corn sown broadcast, in order that you may have provender to soil your stock upon. An acre will grow food enough for 10 head of stock. In the preparation of the ground, manure liberally, plough deep, and harrow and roll till you get a perfectly fine tilth; then sow on each acre 3 bushels of corn, harrow and cross-harrow that in, and then roll.

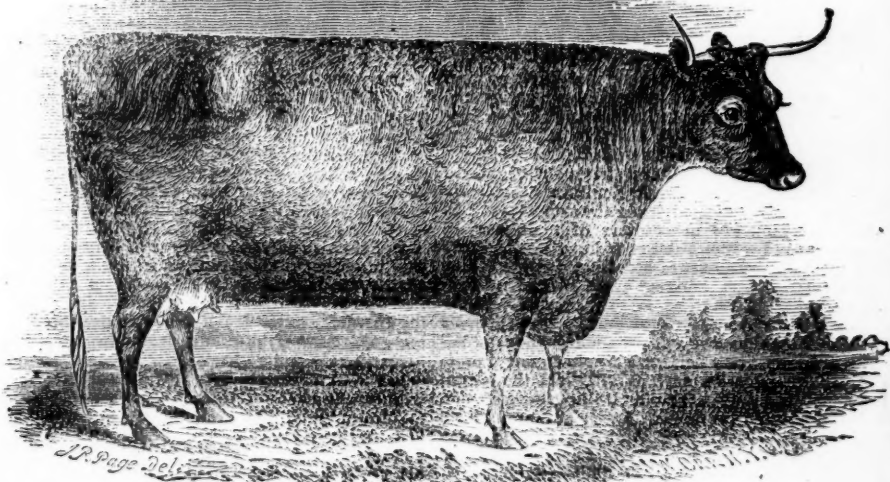
OXEN VS. HORSES.—The "Wool Grower" says that "the plowing matches throughout the country have established the fact, that oxen can plow a given space of ground as quick and as well as horses." We do not know how this may be, but we do know a gentleman who puts a yoke of Devon oxen to a plow, immediately behind a team of three good horses, and they do the same days' work of plowing that the horses do. They are stabled and curried and fed like horses, and do all the work required of them with as much spirit.

"CANUT"---(182.)



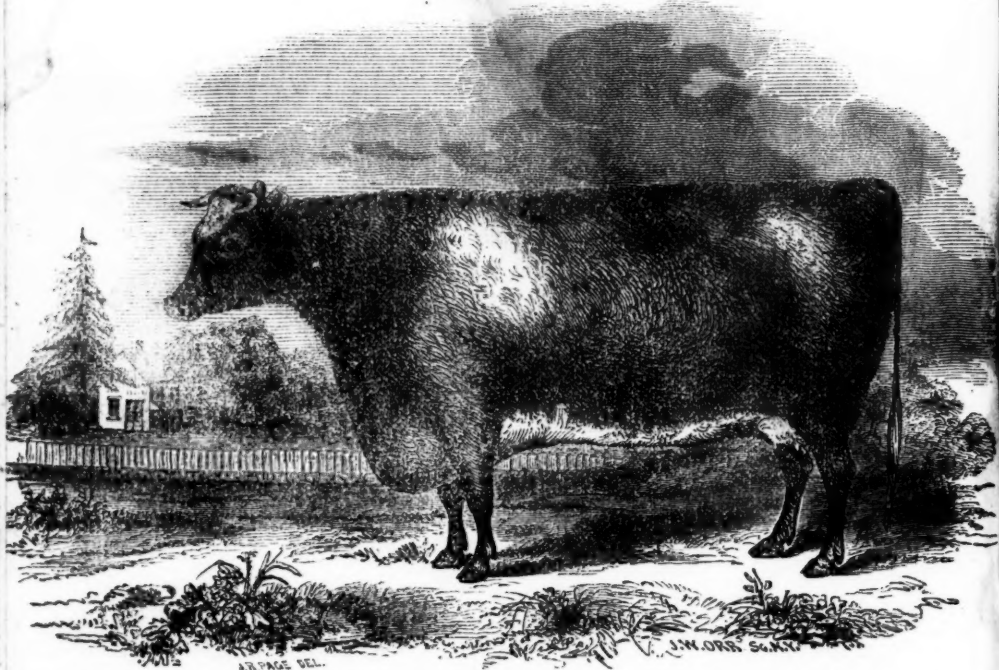
Calved January, 1851—bred by Ambrose Stevens, the property of Linsley Bros. of West Meriden, Con. Sire Albert, (2) grandsire Baronet, (5) dam Gurly, (610) by Trimayser, (321) grand dam Young Gurly (99) by young Sillifant (131) great grand dam Gurly, (95) by a son of Forester, (46) g. g. grand dam Tulip, bred by Wm. Merson, of Brinsworthy, Devonshire. This animal was sired in England. 1st prize in the Con. State Ag. Soc. in 1855.

"FAIRY"---(696.)



Calved in 1851—bred by Geo. Shupland of Oakford—imported by R. Linsley in 1852. Sire Baronet (4) dam Forester Cow (735) by a bull bred by Mr. Merson, and sold to Mr. Tiemayser—grand dam bred by Mr. Dee, by Forester (45).—The property of Linsley Bros., West Meriden, Con. First Prize animal in Con. State Ag. Soc. in 1855. This Cow and her antecedents are excellent milkers.

"BLOOM," a Short Horn Durham, owned by Col. Morris, of New York.



Red roan; calved January, 1850; bred by Mr. Fowle, Northallerton; property of Mr. L. G. Morris; imported in 1852. Winner of the first prize at New York State Show in 1854. Sire Sir Leonard, (1082) dam Elvira by Æolus, (3733) g. d. Golden Pippin by Belvedere 2d, (3126) gr. g. dam by Alive O! (2995) gr. gr. g. d. by Eclipse, (233) gr. gr. g. d. by Charge's gray Bull, (872) gr. gr. gr. g. d. by the Paddock Bull, (477) gr. gr. gr. gr. g. d. by Brown's red Bull, (97.)

BREEDING OF STOCK.

[From "The Rural Cyclopedia, or a General Dictionary of Agriculture, and of the Arts, Sciences, instruments, and practice, necessary to the Farmer, Stockfarmer, Gardener," &c., Edinburg, 1854."]

Breeding—The art of rapidly multiplying and of improving domestic animals. Some wealthy and patriotic landlords expend much wealth, great patriotism, and not a little labor and science in improving local breeds of live-stock, in introducing superior breeds from other districts and countries, and in indoctrinating the Agricultural community with enlightened principles in the art of breeding; but such men are benefactors of their country rather than breeders, and must be viewed, rather as patronizing the art of breeding, than as taking part in any of its ordinary cares and toils. Professional farmers, who labor for profit, are the only true class of practical breeders; and, while Agricultural improvers desire such breeds as promise to be most beneficial to a whole country, practical farmers desire such as will yield the largest amount of profit in the particular circumstances of their respective farms. A wise practical breeder regards his live stock as an important portion of his property and conducts the treatment and the increase of it with a direct view to the obtaining of the largest possible remuneration. He considers the nature of his farm,—whether dairy,

pastoral, arable, or mixed; its locality; the amount and quality of its pasturage; the character of its soil; the adaptation of its climate, exposure, and elevations; the degree and kind of its resources for the support of stock in Winter and Spring; the markets to which it has the most ready access, and the varieties and comparative value of pastoral produce for which these markets maintain a demand. He will decide whether sheep-walk, or the dairy, or grazing, or a combination of objects promises to be most suitable, and will select only such principle of breeding as subserves the department which he adopts. "The best beast for him is that which suits his farm the best; and with a view to this, he studies, or ought to study, the points and qualities of his own cattle, and those of his neighbors. The dairyman will regard the quantity of milk, the quality, the time that the cow continues in milk, its value for the production of butter and cheese, the character of the breed for quietness, or as being good nurses, the predisposition to redwater, garget, or dropping after calving, the natural tendency to turn everything to nutriment, the easiness with which she is fattened when given up as a milker, and the proportion of food requisite to keep her in full milk, or to fatten her when dry. The grazer will consider the kind of beast which his land will bear, the kind of meat most in demand in his neighborhood, the early maturity, the quickness of fattening at any age, the quality of

the meat, the parts on which the flesh and fat are principally laid, and, more than all, the hardihood and the adaptation of constitution to the climate and soil." (*Youatt.*) The *Sheep farmer* will act on analogous principles with reference to sheep,—making his selections in adaptation to the situation and character of his farm, and with a view to produce in wool or in carcass; the *breeder of hogs* will consider the adaptations of his resources to one breed rather than to another; and the *mixed breeder* will take account not only of the fitness of his farm for supporting particular kinds and breeds of domestic animals, but of the best methods of so economising it as to maintain the most productive balance between the different kinds, and the most powerful reciprocity upon the fertilizing of the soil for the produce of grain.

The art of breeding live-stock for profit is very laborious to both body and mind. The purchasing of proper stock in the best markets, the collecting of them from different districts into one farm, the managing of the offspring stock from birth to maturity, and the disposing of the surplus in the most remunerating markets, involve great bodily exertion; and the care of the large capital requisite for the enterprise, the doubt whether the outlay for two or three years may be equivalent to the risk, the uncertainty as to the purchased stock producing a progeny as good in character as themselves, the daily solicitude in rearing the progeny to maturity, the fear of disaster from the attacks of disease, and the apprehension of loss from the fall of prices, impose a large degree of labor and trouble on the mind. Any man who begins to be a breeder, therefore, ought to have great powers of both bodily and mental endurance; nor will he ever be likely to enjoy much success, unless he also possess a large judgment and an enterprising spirit. A breeder who cultivates any sort of stock which he can most easily procure, or who rears it with little trouble or with merely routine care, has no right to expect any considerable remuneration. A thoroughly prosperous breeder selects his stock with much discrimination, readily expends labor and money to obtain at a distance a better animal than he can procure at hand, keenly observes the practices or notes the principles of other successful breeders, and omits no practical precaution, however minute, for securing excellence in the progeny, averting disease, and effecting a plump, early and ample maturity.

"The natural progress of the art of breeding is well illustrated by Mr. James Dickson of Edinburgh, in a supposititious case; which we shall here transfer to our pages. "The securing of the greatest profit in breeding with the least labor, consists in procuring that breed which will attain the greatest weight and maturity in the shortest time, and on the least quantity of food. On observing the progress of different individuals of the same breed of cattle, every breeder may have noticed that some individuals fatten quicker than others under the same treatment: and were the cattle of different breeds, the difference in the progress of fatness would probably be the more striking. Results so obvious cannot fail to rouse the inquiries of the breeder. How is it that animals of different breeds, or individuals of the same breed, fatten faster than others? They all receive the same attention and care, food and comfort.—On inspecting the subject more closely, the breeder discovers that those animals which improve

fastest, are the most beautiful to appearance, and most handsomely formed. Out of regard for them, he has a desire to handle and fondle them, when he makes a new discovery—he finds that their skins feel agreeable to the touch, are loose, and easily laid hold of. Their bodies are soft and fat, and he can press his fingers into the flesh, which springs back again in an elastic manner. He can also ascertain the same properties in the parents of the respective cattle which have thus exhibited them; and when he has made this observation, he has made another discovery. He thereby learns, that cattle possessing certain good and useful properties, have the power of imparting them to their progeny. He becomes convinced that good properties are hereditary; and by a parity of reasoning and observation, he concludes that bad properties are also hereditary. He therefore retains the breeding stock which possesses the good properties, and disposes of the rest which possesses the bad, and fills up their places with animals possessing properties similar to the first. His mind having thus been awakened to the proper course to be pursued in breeding, he perseveres in the selection of the best animals, and in the course of time, his experience and taste correct the defects which may exist in even the minutest properties of his animals. Some of these minute defects may not exhibit themselves for some time, even for years; but when they do appear, the animals having them are removed, and these only cherished which have preserved all the good properties to the latest period."

"Having thus procured that breed which attains the greatest weight and maturity in the shortest time, and on the least quantity of food, not absolutely but relatively to other breeds, (for it is perhaps not in the power of man to fashion an absolutely perfect breed of cattle, which these qualifications would indicate,) the breeder's next consideration is how to preserve the good properties which have been acquired in his cattle. This consideration will be early impressed upon him, for he knows that the possession of any good thing is but a fleeting acquisition; for he sees that others, more than he, cannot retain a good thing permanently; for everything becomes the more evanescent the purer it is. He finds this true in regard to cattle. The good qualities gradually disappear, one after another. The more minute properties disappear first, as it were stealthily, before he is aware of their disappearance. He finds, to his amazement and embarrassment, that his cattle are undergoing an evident change for the worse.—They are becoming smaller, they are more tender, more easily hurt by change of food and weather; they show symptoms of internal disease, and some even die in spite of his attempts to preserve them. He becomes alarmed, he ascribes the change perhaps to some temporary change in the atmosphere, to some epidemic, which will pass away with the season; and, at all events, he cannot ascribe the mismanagement on his part, as a cause of the disheartening change. He is not conscious of having deviated from the exact line of conduct which has hitherto led him to prosperity and fame. He finds himself in a dilemma. If he continues as he has latterly proceeded in his method of breeding, he fears that the value of the cattle, upon which he has bestowed so much care, and of whose beautiful appearance he is justly proud, will decline every year. It is no easy matter for a breeder to extri-

cate himself out of such a difficulty. The many conjectures which he forms to account for the unfortunate change, the epidemic among the rest, have now lost his confidence, and he begins to distrust his later management, and attempts to discover an error of judgment or of practice. But although an error of judgment or practice had produced the effects, its immediate connection with them may not be very apparent; and at all events, he is reluctant to acknowledge that it is easy to account for so great a change as has taken place in his stock. He cannot conceive that a pursuance of the same plan which has perfected his animals, can at any time be detrimental to them. He resolves, however, to proceed in future with circumspection. The first precaution which he uses is to change his breeding stock, in that line whose progeny have shown the greatest change. He purchases a bull from the best breeder in the country. This is at least a safe step. On comparison, his eyes are opened to the lamentable fact, that his present favorite bull which has procured him his stock, is not so perfect as other people's nor what he has before had; he is fat enough, but seems bound together, and is small. He resolves that he shall serve no more of his own cows, but he puts him to a cow which he has bought, in order to mark the results of the double change which he is about to effect by introducing a fresh bull and a fresh cow into his stock. The result proves better than his expectations. He tried the experiments in doubt, but he exults in the results, because he is in the way of regaining his lost stock. The fresh breed exhibits the size, strength, hardiness, all the good qualities of his best animals. He now sees the necessity of changing at intervals, the blood in breeding cattle, in order to maintain them in that high and palmy state which imparts the greatest pleasure and profit to the breeder. He is convinced that without a change of blood in its constitution, or in other words, without crossing, no breed of cattle can maintain its health and usefulness."

"Convinced though he be of this position in regard to crossing in the same breed, still he naturally asks himself, will any kind of crossing similarly produce favorable results? Were any bull or cow used, would their progeny be as perfect as that of the crosses he has just used? No reasoning can satisfy any man in the matter; experiment alone must answer these questions. But having already made experiments and succeeded, he may try others. He buys a bull of any breed different from his own. He puts him to one of his best cows. The result proves almost a failure. The progeny is no doubt strong and hardy, but it is coarse, and by no means an improvement on his own breed. Such an experiment shows that he should not rely on a confessedly inferior bull.—He then finds that the crossing of breeds must not be conducted in an indiscriminate manner, that a superior bull is necessary, and that a superior cow cannot secure him against disappointment when coupled with an inferior bull."

"He will try another experiment, the converse of the last. He now buys a cow of a different breed from his own, and puts his best bull to her. The result is much superior to the last experiment. The progeny is not so fine as his own pure breed, but it is superior to its mother. It proves a rapid grower, kind feeder, has a good figure and hardy constitution. He is encouraged to proceed a lit-

tle farther—he puts a fine bull to a cow of this cross. He is not disappointed; the progeny is still not so fine as his own pure breed, but it approaches nearer in similarity to it than the first cross; and proceeding in this manner for generations, he ultimately finds that the coarse breed merges into his own. As he is still in the field of experiment, he tries the effect of a bull of a different breed from his own, with a cow which is a cross between a coarse cow and a fine bull of his own. Instead of the cross improving as it did with the fine bull, it is decidedly worse than its sire. He receives no encouragement to proceed in this direction. These latter experiments prove to him, that, were it possible, from the course of events, that no superior cow could be obtained, a superior bull would in time raise a stock similar to himself from a cow of a different breed; and that this cross should either remain as it is, because it is certainly a good cross, or it will merge, by means of a superior bull, into his own pure breed, and that by an inferior bull, the cross degenerates at once."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Among the new advertisements, will be found one of Col. O. Bowie, offering for sale his fine Devon bull "Dacotah," and several younger animals of the same breed. Dacotah has taken the highest premiums at the Maryland and New York State Shows, and those who have viewed Col. B.'s stock on our Show Grounds, can testify to their great beauty and appearance of high breeding.

Mr. Crenshaw offers for sale his Orange Co. Va. farm, on the 17th of July, inst. A particular description of this farm was recently given in the Southern Planter, and it will no doubt be found one of the most valuable estates in that section of Virginia. Read the advertisement.

Hildreth No. 1 Super-phosphate of Lime, advertised by Messrs. Cornell & Dorsey, is a new article in our market. We know but little more of it than what is stated by the very respectable merchants who are the agents in this city for the sale of it, who assure us that if they were not well satisfied of its value, they would not have agreed to undertake the agency. The certificates of Dr. Jackson, of Boston, and Dr. Stewart, of Maryland, will speak for themselves.

We refer to Mr. Reese's advertisement of manipulated guano—a mixture of one-third Peruvian with two-thirds phosphatic guano—an article which we have much faith in, and have heretofore recommended to the attention of farmers.

Mr. Chappell also claims attention to his manure, and gives strong reasons for the faith that is in him. We hope that the farmers and planters will try, on a small scale, the several articles offered them, and report to us the result, be it successful or the reverse.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of a new *caldron or agricultural boiler*, patented by Mr. Henry Neusham, of our city. There are some advantages claimed for this boiler, which we learn have never been attained before; and an examination of the model induces us to believe it to be a very superior article, and we think well worthy the attention of the farming community. Any information in relation to it can be obtained by addressing Messrs. Robbins & Bibb, 39 Light street.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

JULY.

As July, in most of the wheat-growing States, is the harvest month, we shall not detain our agricultural readers with prefatory observations, but proceed at once to the labors on the farm, peculiar to the month.

HARVESTING.

Of Implements and tools. Make a careful and thorough examination of all your harvest implements and tools—do this yourself—do it immediately—and without delay, have all that may need it repaired. If on examination you find you have not a sufficient supply to secure your crops in good time, forthwith purchase as you may need, and while making your selection, bear in mind this truth, that it is always best to buy the most substantial implements and tools, without regard to price, as they ultimately turn out the cheapest.

Of Harvest Hands. Secure your hands at once, if you need more than your own. Be sure that your number of hands is fully equal to perform all the business of the harvesting in good time: nay, that those you intend to employ are more than sufficient; for be assured, that nothing is gained, so far as the economy of money is concerned, by harvesting with a weak force. We have known more than one instance where great loss was sustained after the grain was cut down, in consequence of the proprietors, from false notions of economy, having failed to secure a full supply of hands to secure their grain against the casualties of the weather. We say then to all, see to it that your harvest force is more than equal to the demands of your crops.

Of Harvest supplies. These should be full in quantity, and of good quality. Men work with more strength and nerve, and in better spirit, at harvest time, when generously fed and kindly cared for, than when the reverse is the case. Therefore, secure your supplies at once, if you have not already done so; deal them out with a liberal hand, as liberality, upon such occasions, begets the will to do, on the part of those who have to perform the work. Good feeding and kind treatment, nerves the arm with potency and power, and animates the mind with that hopeful spirit which secures justice to the employer.

Presence of the Owner. Every owner of a harvest field will find his interest promoted by attending therein during the operations of harvest; it suppresses talking, which often leads to quarrelling and unpleasant results; it insures diligence and nicety of execution on the part of the harvesters, and as the resulting consequences, more and better work; but while we would discourage much talking, we would encourage singing, for as talking leads to a relaxation in work, so does the influence of song make men work with more animation and willing spirit, and, as it were, lessens the toils of the field. If you wish your work done, and done well, there is nothing more conducive to these ends than keeping the men in good humor.

Highest Drink. When men are engaged in the harvest field under the influence of an intensely hot sun, sweating at every pore, they necessarily become thirsty, and require a refreshing beverage, and as we know none better calculated to allay thirst, refresh and invigorate the system than the one we recommended last month, we will repeat it this: Stir well together 10 gallons of cold water, 1 gallon of molasses, 1 quart of vinegar and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of ground

ginger. A beverage thus made, is as refreshing as it is healthful and palatable, and should be supplied to the hands every half hour. The addition of ice would render it more acceptable, unless the water may be very cold.

TIME OF CUTTING.

We recommend to all to cut their wheat several days before it becomes dead ripe. Discretion, however, must be used as to the time; it must not be cut while the kernels are in a state of sap or juiciness; but after they have arrived at the dough state. With regard to the proper time, it must be assumed as a safe rule, that the cutting should take place when an inch or two of the straw just beneath the head, has turned yellow and become dry. It must be obvious to all that may think upon the subject, that, from that period, the grain derives but little, if any, nutriment from the roots of the plants, the medium of circulation being arrested by the aridity of the straw at its point of junction with the head, and as a consequence, little or none from the atmosphere. But, we repeat, in our climate, much discretion should be used.

Upon this subject the late professor Norton, in his excellent work, entitled, "*Elements of Scientific Agriculture*" holds the following views:

"The time of cutting grain very essentially affects the proportion of fine flour and bran yielded by samples of it. Careful experiments have shown with regard to WHEAT, that when cut from 10 to 14 days before it is fully ripe, the grain not only weighs heavier, but measures more: it is positively better in quality, producing a larger proportion of fine flour to the bushel. When the grain is in the milk, there is but little woody fibre; nearly every thing is starch, gluten, sugar, &c. with a large per centage of water. If cut 10 or 12 days before full ripeness, the proportion of woody fibre is still small; but as the grain ripens, the thickness of skin rapidly increases, woody fibre being formed at the expense of the starch and sugar; these must obviously diminish in a corresponding degree, the quality of the grain being of course injured. The same thing is true as to all other grains."

M. Cadet de Vaux, of France recommends the reaping of small grain before it is perfectly ripe.—This practice originated with M. Salles of the Agricultural Society of Bessiers: grain thus reaped, (say 8 days before it is ripe,) is fuller, larger and finer, and is never attacked by the weevil. This was proved by reaping one-half of a piece of corn, (wheat) as recommended, and leaving the other till the usual time. The early reaped portion gave a hectolitre (about 3 bushels) of corn [wheat], more for an acre of land than the later reaped. An equal quantity of flour from each was made into bread; that made from the corn [wheat] reaped green, gave 7 lbs. of bread more than the other in 2 bushels. The weevil attacked the ripe, but not the green. The proper time for reaping, is when the grain, pressed between the fingers, has a doughy appearance, like bread just fresh from the oven when pressed in the same way."

Upon the same subject, Mr. John C. Reid, of LaPorte, Indiana, gives the following as the result of his own experience:

"The first when cut was in what was called dough, the last very ripe. The first cut weighed 65 lbs. per bushel; the last 60 to 63. The first made the finest flour, and the greatest quantity to the bushel."

To further illustrate this matter we extract from the *Edinburgh Cyclopedia* the following:—

"The harvesting of wheat.—The ripening of the grain of wheat must not be judged by the ripening or mellowing of the straw. In some circumstances, the root and ear seem ripe while most of the straw is

still greenish or succulent, and in others, the straw from the root upwards loses its succulency, turns yellow, and gives the whole plant the appearance of ripeness while the grain in the ear is still soft or almost pulpy; and only in cases of entire and uniform healthiness in the crop, and of steadiness and general favourableness in the season, do all the parts of the plant arrive with perfect simultaneousness toward maturity. Some farmers contend that a crop which has become dead at the root while it still continues soft and pulpy in the grain, should be allowed to stand for some time enjoying the effects of the air and sunshine before it be cut down; and others regard it so completely defunct from all possibility of further nourishment or benefit, that it ought not to stand another day; and both may be either right or wrong,—that is, right in one year and wrong in another,—according to the nature of the weather. All wheat, except such as is grown mainly or largely for the sake of its straw, ought to be judged as to readiness of reaping solely by the grain, and this is always in a state of the highest fitness for the purposes of the miller and the baker, and therefore in a state of the truest ripeness, when in the medium stage, between softness and solidity which farmers technically call "raw." If the grain be quite pulpy or too green, it shrivels in drying, and suffers loss in both quantity and quality; and if it be quite solid or too ripe, it exchanges a considerable portion of its nutritious principles for innutritious ones, and is also liable to be shaken out by the wind and to shed in reaping. Many rules have been proposed for enabling farmers to decide as to the precise moment when their wheat may most profitably be cut; but some overlook casual and important differences which occur in different crops and seasons; many proceed on false views of the true nature of ripeness, and most are empirical and allow the crops to stand too long uncut, and incomparably the best rule which has ever yet been proposed is to cut wheat when the grain is the state called "raw," or in medium condition between pulpiness and solidity, or, as nearly as can be conjectured, about 14 days before it would become what is popularly termed ripe. This rule leads to a great saving in the produce above what would result from the ordinary practice, and is therefore of vast consequence to the interests of farmers and of the whole population; and it was worked out and proved by Mr. Hannam of North Dighton, in Yorkshire, in a course of masterly experiments and reasonings, which we must here detail at considerable length and in his own words:—

"Having selected a field of square-headed red wheat for the experiments," says Mr. Hannam, on August 4, 1840, I cut a sheaf. At this time it was quite green, that is both straw and ears were in full vigor and full of sap. Though the grain appeared perfectly formed, the chaff still adhered so firmly to it that it was scarcely possible to separate them by friction in the hands. When separated, it was large and plump, but so full of milk that the slightest pressure reduced the whole to a juicy consistency of pulp. This sheaf stood in the field for a fortnight, when it was housed. On the same day, Aug. 18, I cut another. The wheat was of course yet green, speaking positively, or not ripe, if we speak negatively,—being what farmers commonly term 'raw,' that is, the straw, though appearing at a distance green, when examined closely was of a hue fast approximating to yellow, while for about a foot upwards from the ground, it was quite yellow, the ears, too, were open, the chaff tinged with various shades of yellow and

green, and the grain itself when separated, soft and pulpy, but not near so full of fluid as before. The judgment of the farmer will, however, best tell him the conditions of the wheat, both at this and the preceding cutting, when I say, that in another fortnight the whole field was ripe. At the end of this fortnight, (September 1,) I housed the sheaf cut on August 18, and which had remained exposed to the weather in the interval, and cut a third. This I have said was ripe, but by the term I don't mean that degree of ripeness when the straw breaks, the ears curl, and the grain shakes out, but that condition in which it is customary to commence reaping it,—when the straw, from the roots to the ear, is uniformly yellow, and has lost all symptoms of vivid health. On the 14th of Sept. the third sheaf was taken from the field and carefully preserved along with the other two, till the 1st of November, when out of each sheaf I selected 100 ears, and put each parcel into a separate bag. The straw from each of these parcels of ears was preserved carefully. The ears in one bag, (No. 1, or that cut very green), were now thrashed, the chaff carefully separated, and the gross weight of the corn yielded, ascertained by an extremely accurate balance. The weights of a fixed measure of a certain number of grains were found: to avoid error, this was repeated several times. No. 2, (cut raw) and No. 3 (ripe) underwent the same process: for the results of which see the following table.

Comparative weight of wheat reaped at different periods.
Time of reaping and Condition Gross Produce. Equal Measure. Equal No. of grains.

No. 1	Aug. 4. (very green,)	576	568	193
No. 2	Aug. 18. (raw)	736	580	231
No. 3	September 1 (ripe)	650	570	223

As this table is merely comparative, (the weights used being in parts, and decimal parts of the same, for the convenience of minute experiments), it may not be unnecessary to give the following table of the absolute weights of each sample in ounces, drams, scruples and grains troy:

Gross Produce.					Equal measures.				Equal No. of grains.			
No.	oz.	dr.	scr.	gr.	oz.	dr.	scr.	gr.	oz.	dr.	scr.	gr.
1	4	0	0	0	3	7	1	13	0	1	0	53
2	5	0	2	13	4	0	0	13	0	1	0	171
3	4	4	0	6	3	7	2	0	0	1	0	151

The straw belonging to each sample was now weighed (all the parcels having previously been made of the same length, commencing from the bottom of the ear,) when the following was the result:

Comparative weight of 100 straws, of an equal length, belonging to the samples, Nos. 1, 2, 3,

No. 1 (green,)	550
No. 2 (raw,)	475
No. 3 (ripe)	450

The next thing to be ascertained was, the quality of the produce, or the comparative worth of each description. Believing in the old saying, that

"The proper value of a thing
Is just as much as it will bring,"

on the 5th of November I attended market, and asked the opinion of an extensive corn grower as to the values of the respective samples, according to the prices of the day. His opinion was,

No. 1,	61s. per quarter.
No. 2,	64s. " do.
No. 3,	62s. " do.

Putting the same samples into the hands of an extensive corn factor and miller, his value, and what he would give to buy, was, for

No. 1,	61s. per quarter.
--------	-------------------

No. 2,	63s. per quarter.
No. 3,	61s. " do.

Adding these values respectively together and taking the mean price of each (by which we shall obtain as near an approximation to the truth as possible,) we have

No. 1,	61s. 0d. per quarter.
No. 2,	63s. 6d. " do.
No. 3,	61s. 6d. " do."

These experiments prove that the weight of the wheat cut 14 days before it was ripe was 13 pr c. greater than that reaped when ripe: its weight in equal measure was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. greater: in quality it was superior above $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. while in weight of straw, it was greater than over 5 per cent.

The following are the conclusions arrived at by the late Professor James F. W. Johnston, as to the best time to cut wheat. He sums up thus:

"Theory and experience, therefore indicate about a fortnight before full ripening as the most proper time for cutting corn. The skin is then thinner, the grain fuller, the bushel heavier, the yield of flour greater, the quantity of bran less; while at the same time, the straw is heavier, and contains more soluble matter, than when it is left uncut until it is considered to be fully ripe."

TIME OF CUTTING GRASSES FOR HAY.

"The time of cutting," says Norton's Elements, "has much to do with the nutritive value of hay. While the stems and leaves are growing and green, they contain considerable quantities of sugar and gum, which, as they ripen, are for a large part, transformed into dry, indigestible, woody fibre; the remainder goes into the seeds; but as every farmer knows, a great portion of these are lost from the hay, before it is fed out. Thus after grass has attained its full size and height, it loses by delay in cutting, and becomes, as to its stem and leaves, of poorer quality as it grows ripen."

Our own opinion is that the proper time for harvesting grass for hay is when the grass is in bloom, and before the seed is formed. Hay made from grass cut at this period, is more easy of digestion, more acceptable to all kinds of stock, more nutritive, while at the same time the soil is less exhausted.

MILLET.

Wherever the hay crop has proved a short one, our readers will find in Millet an excellent substitute to make up the deficiency, and that it may be seeded up to the 10th of this month. For its culture see May number.

FALL POTATOES.

Keep your Fall potatoes clean of grass and weeds until they are in flower, and top-dress them with a mixture of ashes, salt and plaster.

SHEEP.

Keep in a trough, under cover, accessible to your sheep, from now until Fall, tar and salt. Every few days tar should be strewn over the bottom of the trough, and salt over the tar. The sheep in eating the salt will smear their noses with the tar, and thus will they be armed with a repellent against the fly that deposits eggs in their nostrils that cause worms in the head.

FALL TURNIPS.

Every one who desires to raise a good crop of turnips—and every farmer should—should make his arrangements, so as to be able to sow them about the 25th of this month. By sowing thus early, should the plants be cut off by the insects, which they are very liable to be, there will be ample time left for re-sowing, a matter that all should take into serious account.

Preparation of the ground. If the ground is sward, it should be ploughed twice; the first ploughing should be a very deep one; to this ploughing one-half of the allotted manure should be spread early broadcast over the sward and ploughed in as deep as a strong team can sink the plough; the ground should be thoroughly harrowed lengthwise the furrow and rolled. When the time for putting in the seed arrives, then apply the other half of the manure, plough it in about three inches in depth, harrow until a perfectly fine tilth shall be obtained, then roll, when the ground will be fit to receive the seed.

Preparation of the seed. Soak the seed 24 hours in fish oil, then drain off the oil, and mix the seed with ashes, until they are perfectly separated and then sow them thinly; harrow them in very lightly with a light short tined seed harrow; then broadcast over them a mixture of ashes and plaster in the proportion of 5 bushels of ashes per acre to 1 bushel of plaster and 1 bushel of salt per acre, then roll.

Kinds and quantities of Manure. For an acre of turnips, 20 two-horse loads of well rotted stable or barn yard manure, which would be all the better of having 20 bushels of ashes and 4 bushels of bone-dust mixed therewith, thrown into mass and permitted to remain 10 or 14 days before being applied: 20 two horse loads of sheep-dung, mixed with 100 lbs. of the ammoniated super-phosphate of lime will answer for an acre in turnips: 10 bushels of bone-dust, mixed with 10 loads of well rotted barn-yard manure, will answer for an acre in turnips: 20 bushels of ashes, 10 bushels of bone-dust, formed into compost with 10 two horse loads of well rotted barn yard manure, will answer for an acre in turnips, so will 400 lbs. of Peruvian guano.

Quantity of seed per acre. If mixed with twice its volume of fine sand, and sown by a pains-taking, skilful hand, 1 lb. of seed will be enough for an acre; it may however be safe to sow $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per acre, to provide against unskilfulness in sowing and destruction from insects.

Time of Sowing. As we have before suggested they should be sown about the 25th of July.

After Culture. Have a compost ready, consisting of 6 parts ashes, 1 part plaster and 1 part soil, and 1 part salt; the moment the plants show themselves above the ground, dust them with this mixture, for several successive mornings early while the dew is on the leaves; repeat this until the plants get into the rough leaf.

When the plants begin to bottle, that is to form the bulb, run a harrow through them—this operation serves the two-fold purpose of partially throwing out the plants and working them. In a week from this time, thin out the plants so as to stand 8 inches apart. While undergoing this process, they should be weeded with the hand and hoe: after an interval of 8 or 10 days from this, give the turnips another weeding with the hand and hoe and top-dress with ashes, and the culture will be at an end.

ORCHARDS—PEACH TREES.

Treat these as we advised in June.

PEAR, PLUM, AND CHERRY TREES.

If there be any blighted limbs on the tree, cut the blighted parts off into the sound wood, paint varnish over the wounds, and burn the limbs cut off.

Examinations of these descriptions of fruit trees should be often made, and in every instance where any limb, or part of a limb, may be blighted or turned black, it should be treated as above advised.

BUDDING AND INOCULATING.

Plums, Cherries, Apricots and Pears may be budded and inoculated towards the last of this month.

RUTABAGA TURNIPS.

Seed of this excellent root may be sown up to the middle of this month. For the mode of culture we refer to our advice last month.

ROOT CROPS GENERALLY.

These must be kept clean of weeds, and the earth open.

BUSHES, BRIARS, WEEDS.

Keep up a continued state of hostility against the whole of these pests. Permit none to grow along your line of fences or in your fields.

COMPOST HEAPS.

If you wish to keep up the fertility of your soil, be attentive in the accumulation of materials for forming compost heaps.

DEEP PLOUGHING.

As the period is coming on apace when you will be engaged in breaking up your wheat grounds, permit us to remind you that in all lands which may not be wet, deep ploughing is absolutely necessary.

SPROUTING.

Attend to this work during this month and the next. Lay the sprouts in heaps, and when dry enough, burn them, and sow the ashes on your meadows.

BUCKWHEAT

May be sown any time up to the 10th of this month.

WORK IN THE GARDEN. JULY.

This month is, emphatically, in all that appertains to the business of the garden, one for action, unceasing, well directed action. Time, if unimproved now, cannot be reclaimed during the season, and all chance of having the pleasure and profit of enjoying the fruits of a well filled garden, will have to be adjourned over to another year. Therefore, as it should be the duty of every head of a family to provide that family with full and ample supplies of vegetables through fall, winter and spring—they being alike conducive to comfort and health—let us conjure one and all, to set to work at once, and cease not, till every bed and compartment of their gardens, respectively, are filled with growing vegetables—till they are assured that this great end has been attained. Let none excuse himself on the score of want of time, or want of manure; for the time devoted to this purpose is the most fruitful of benefits of any other which claims the attention of the farmer or planter. But should a case occur, where there may not be a supply of manure at hand, even that should not deter any, while, for a few dollars, guano, or some of the organic manures may be obtained, sufficient to fertilize every bed in even a large garden.

Melons, &c.—See to it that your beds of water-melons, cantaleups, cucumbers, cymblians, &c., are kept free from weeds; and that care be taken not to injure the vines while they are being worked.

Sowing Melon Seed.—Between the 1st and 10th of this month is the best time to sow melon seed for mangoes.

Sowing Cucumber Seed.—Any time between the 1st and 15th of this month, cucumber seed may be sowed for pickles.

Setting out Cabbage Plants.—Seize the first rainy season to set out your cabbage plants of different kinds, and in order to protect them against the cut and other worms that prey upon them, prepare in a piggan, noggin, or other vessel, a mixture of fine

mould, soot and flour of sulphur, say, in the proportion of 10 parts mould to 1 part each of soot and flour of sulphur, add as much water as will reduce the whole to the consistence of cream. As you draw your plants from the seed bed, place the roots and stems into the mixture up to the leaves. If dry weather should succeed, have the plants watered just before sun-down every evening until they commence growing, and until rain occurs.

Setting out Endive Plants, and sowing seed.—Set out your endive plants, and sow seed for another crop.

Kidney Beans.—Plant a few rows of any of the kinds of dwarf varieties of beans, every week during this month to secure a continuous supply. Soak the seed 5 or 6 hours before drilling them in, and water the rows every second day just before sun-down, until rain occurs.

Cauliflowers.—Plant out your cauliflower plants intended for winter use. Set them out just before or after rain, water them at the time, and afterwards every day till they begin to grow freely, and until rain occurs. Set them out 2½ feet apart each way, and form a basin around each plant to receive and retain the water.

Small Salading.—Small salading of every kind should be sown at intervals of 10 days during this month.

Celery.—Set out in trenches your celery plants intended for fall and winter use. Your early celery plants should now be earthed up.

Sowing Turnip Seed.—Sow turnip seed any time between the 12th of this month, and the 10th of the next.

Ruta Baga Turnips.—Sow Ruta Baga turnip seed between the 10th and 15th of this month.

Lettuce.—Thin out and transplant any lettuce plants that are of sufficient size. And sow more seed at intervals of 10 days throughout the month.

Spinach.—About the 20th of this month drill in a bed of this excellent vegetable for fall use.

Sowing Cabbage Seed.—In the first ten days of this month, sow any of the early sorts of cabbages for greens to be used in the fall.

Leeks.—Transplant leeks early this month.

Herbs.—Gather your herbs and dry them in the shade.

Planting Peas.—About the 20th of the month, put in a few rows of garden peas of the early kinds for use in September. Soak the seed five or six hours before planting them, and water the rows every second day, just before sun-down, until the plants come up, and continue to water them until rain occurs.

Egg Plants—Red Peppers, Tomatoes.—If you have not already set out your plants of these for your late crops, set them out as early this month as possible, the nearer the first, the better. Water the plants when first planted out, and continue to do so every evening just before sun-down until a rain occurs.

General Work.—Destroy all weeds before they go to seed, and carry them to your dung heap and compost them. See that your gardener regularly waters every crop in dry weather at least three times a week, and that the watering be done just before sun-down, in order that the water may have time to soak down, before the sun has a chance to exhale it. See that every vegetable requiring it, be worked and earthed up. In dry weather, be particular and have the earth open to attract and appropriate the dews.

THE AMERICAN FARMER

POTATOES.

A correspondent of the *Southern Cultivator*, says,—"The ground for potatoes should be turned over and broken up thoroughly, at least twelve inches deep. Lay off the rows two and a half feet apart, and run three times in the same furrow with a broad Scooter plough. Cut the potato into pieces of two eyes each, and drop them one foot apart in the bottom of the deep furrow; then fill the furrow with half rotted straw or oak leaves, or chip or stable manure. If nothing better can be had, pine straw or saw-dust. These are indispensable in the Southern climate, to keep the soil loose, mellow and moist about the potato. When the plant is about four inches high, plough out the middles thoroughly, and draw the dirt a little to the potatoes, but make no high ridge to bake or be dried through and through by the sun. As soon after this as you have a good rain, cover the middles as deep as you can with leaves, pine straw, saw-dust, or something of the kind. This mulching renders any further working unnecessary, and keeps the soil cool and moist through the driest summer.

The depth and width of the drill measure the yield of the crop. Few or no potatoes will be found outside of the mould made by the straw or leaves with which the furrow was filled.

By this simple mode of culture I have over 300 bushels of potatoes to the acre, on land whose ordinary yield does not exceed twenty bushels of corn."

Potatoes are most successfully grown in a moist climate, and this deep planting, and mulching with litter, in a dry and hot climate, keep the soil in condition most favorable and congenial to their growth.

From Shanandoah Co., Virginia, we have received the following, dated 4th June:

"As for the Iverson Grass, I sowed the seed in tolerable land, and last year I gathered one gallon of seed; I sowed that in first rate land, and I will not get any, for there is not a spear to be seen, although the wheat just along side, looks as though it would make twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre. The land cost one hundred dollars per acre, in cash, first rate river bottom; and if the grass won't grow on such land, I don't think it would ever improve worn out land.

"The wheat through this neighborhood in wheat stubble, looks pretty well, but suffering for rain. The corn ground wheat is very short and backward, and cannot make an average crop. Upon the whole, so far as I can learn, there will not be more wheat raised in the county than was last year, and that was the shortest crop we had for many years. The corn is very backward, scarcely above the clouds. All planted twice, and are still re-planting, making the third time; there is not more than one grain in five that came up, owing to the seed being damaged by freezing last winter. Things look gloomily at this time."

FEEDING ROOTS.

It is a great mistake to suppose that it is proper to feed any kind of stock exclusively on roots. We think all sorts, horses as well as others, may be advantageously fed with Ruta Baga, Carrots, Sugar Beet, &c., but the roots should be fed in connection with as much good hay or straw as they will consume without water. Horses should have grain besides. An intelligent farmer recently remarked to us, that he found it good economy to keep his horses properly fed with grain during the winter season. They do their work much better and last much longer, for being uniformly well treated.

Roots while they supply much nutritive matter, are especially valuable as furnishing a variety for the winter feeding. A variety peculiarly grateful when otherwise the stock are entirely confined to dry food.

Experienced feeders of roots, say that they should be cut fine, or rather in slices, and thoroughly mixed with cut or chaffed hay or straw, and when grain is to be used, that it should be ground and mixed with the mess. To be well fed, a full grown ox will take half a bushel of roots three times a day, and smaller animals, in proportion.

BREED OF HOGS.

A friend of ours who always had a good stock of hogs, was inquired of by a neighbor who always had not, what breed of hogs his was. Mine is the corn-house breed, said the former. The Maine Farmer tells a story of a man accosting a neighbor, "Well, Mr. Sweetzer, I am going to beat you raising hogs this year, I've got some of I. M's. breed."

"A-a-h," bawled out the old man, "you had better get the breed of his hog-trough."

It is not an uncommon error to expect to find in a change of breed, a remedy for bad management. Good breeds of hogs have been rapidly propagated, and very good hogs can be found in all the improved sections of the country. But good breeds avail nothing without good feeding and good management. Let us have the best breeds, the best breeding, and the best feeding, to insure a good stock of any kind.

TOMATOES FOR COWS.—A writer in the *South Carolina Agriculturist* says, that on giving Tomatoes to Cows, he found the quantity of butter increased, and a beautiful yellow color and delicious flavour imparted to it. The Tomato is a very wholesome vegetable for man or beast, and the effect thus noticed not improbable. It is very easily raised, and bears abundantly.

For the American Farmer.

TO CURE SCRATCHES IN HORSES.—Take 3 table-spoonsfull of common tar, 2 table spoonsfull of lard; put them in a vessel, and warm them gradually, until soft enough to mix thoroughly; then add a tea-spoonfull of gun powder—mix it well with the tar and lard. Put this mixture on at night, after washing and drying the horses feet well. If the weather is wet, keep the horse in stable all night, or under shelter, to prevent the mixture from washing off. I have never seen a case that required more than one application to cure it perfectly. M. R.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—The Legislature of Vermont has been the first to pass a law introducing an Agricultural Book in their Common Schools. The title of the law is "An Act to Encourage the Study of Agriculture in the Common Schools," and the book selected for the distribution is "Waring's Elements of Agriculture," better than which, to this time does not exist.

In noticing this act of the Legislature of Vermont, a cotemporary makes the following remarks, which accord so closely with our own views, that we deem it proper to transfer them to our pages:

"This little work will prove a pioneer in the dissemination of agricultural knowledge among the rising generation, and will at least encourage a taste for that class of reading which is most needed by the youth of our country; for while we freely admit that belles lettres acquirements are of use to every one, still we cannot but observe that the general tendency of the public mind is rather instruction of an amusing kind, than that of a more utilitarian order. Why is it that almost every individual is conversant with prominent points of English history, and still knows so little of all the useful arts? If we consult the happiness of man alone, irrespective of his immediate profit and consequent comfort, we shall even then find that those who have devoted themselves to so much of the study of the arts and sciences as will enable them to enjoy the observances of Nature's laws, are the happiest, and it is for this reason that boys who have spent part of their life in the country, and have afterward received finished educations, form that portion of our community who are most observant of truths and are the prominent men in our legislative halls, mercantile and manufacturing communities, etc. This element of mind, the power to observe truths, is peculiarly observable amongst agriculturists, and if the means are afforded them in early life time, cannot but tend to the progression of the nation at large; thus in rural districts good elementary works on agriculture should be placed in the hands of youth; in manufacturing districts those on mechanical philosophy should hold a similar place, and in one or two generations the peculiar property of the American mind, utilitarian invention, would be rendered the great engine for national advancement. It is by such means that our happy country may approach her destiny, and the world may be presented with the before unknown epoch, of an educated agricultural community."

FARM FOR SALE.

THE SUBSCRIBER having purchased in the South West, offers his valuable Farm for sale, either in whole or divided into lots, to suit purchasers, provided all be sold. Persons wishing to buy a convenient farm will find a rare chance to get one possessing as many advantages. This property contains 600 acres, and lies on the Annapolis Railroad, and extends to deep navigable water, is within three miles of Annapolis; the soil is good and would make a superior tobacco and garden farm, and is well adapted to corn and wheat; persons wishing to buy will find it to their advantage to call and see it as soon as convenient; the improvements are good, but plain; my address is Annapolis, Md.; price \$30 per acre. I will also sell two farms in Fairfax County, Va., one of 224 acres and one of 280 acres.

H. BEST.

ly. 1-21*

A SPLENDID RESIDENCE AND GOOD ESTATE FOR SALE.

I WISH to sell my present residence, "TUDOR HALL," near the Village of Leonardtown, St. Mary's county, Md., and will give possession as soon as may be required, so far as preparation for, and seeding fall crops may be necessary, and full possession as soon as I can, in all the present year. The estate contains from twelve to thirteen hundred acres, six hundred or more under good fencing of post and rail, and in a good state of cultivation, in orchard, up and low land meadows, well enclosed lots of from ten to twenty-five acres, and five fields for regular rotation of crops; with good barns, cow and horse stables, Grist Mill, Crusher, fodder or hay, Root Cutter and Thrasher, driven by Drury's Horse-Power. Over-seer's house, and ample quarters for servants; the balance in some salt marsh, and abundance of timber for fencing and building.

The dwelling is good and spacious for a large family, with good kitchen, laundry, ice house, stables, carriage house, &c. The location is healthy, and scenery very superior; is surrounded by good society; is convenient to public worship in the Protestant Episcopal, the Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches; deep navigation, and almost daily means by steamboats from the village wharf, and other landings, for shipment of produce, or visiting the distant country or cities. The estate includes some of the village houses, shops, &c., and most of the unimproved lots. I will sell the whole a great bargain, and on easy terms, for satisfactory security; say, for \$35,000, for the half of which, the improvements could scarcely be made.

lyl

Leonardtown, June 28, 1856.

GUANO.

GUANO.—We desire to call the attention of Farmers, Commission Merchants and Dealers generally to our stock of GUANO and FERTILIZERS for Fall sowing.

No. 1 Peruvian GUANO.

AA Mexican do.

" African do.

" Colombian do.

DeBerg's SUPER PHOSPHATES.

Trego's Alkaline do.

All of which we guarantee to be genuine.

From the above the friends or opponents of Guanos and Compounds may make their selection. We have also on hand a quantity of No. 2 PERUVIAN GUANO, but very little damaged, which we are selling at a very low price.

H. G. S. KEY,

ly. 1-

Warehouses, Bowly's wharf.

JOSEPH E. WILSON.

PAPER HANGER & BLIND MANUFACTURER.

No. 65 NORTH HOWARD STREET.

Would respectfully inform Farmers and Country people, that he is ready to do all kinds of Paper Hanging in the Country, by careful workmen in the best manner—VERNITIAN BLINDS, PLAIN, BUFF AND WHITE NEN-e WINDOW SHADES, made to order in the neatest mannLI may 1-ly



C. H. DRURY, corner of Camden street and Light street wharf, having completed his establishment with Foundry connected, for the making his own

Castings, is prepared to furnish all varieties of AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS and CASTINGS, made to pattern of the best material.

The following is a list of PLOWS kept constantly on hand: Davis, of the different numbers, for wrought and cast shears, S. & M., Chenoweth, Wiley, 2 and 3 furrow, No. 0, Hill side, No. 1 and 3 Connecticut—Beach Improved or Posey Plow, with common Davis cast shear—Self-sharpenor or wrought shear—Corn Cultivators, plain and expanding—Tobacco do.—Wheat Fans—Corn shellers with double hopper—Old Vertical and Virginia sheller—Harrows—superior Pennsylvania made Grain Cradles—Revolving Horse Rakes—Cylindrical straw Cutters, &c. &c. Horse Power GRIST MILLS, a very useful and saving article, and coming into general use. HORSE POWER AND THRESHING MACHINES, of these I need not say any thing, as wherever they have been in use any time, they are preferred to all others.

C. H. D. will this year make a smaller size Power & Thresher, (price of Power, \$100, Thresher, \$50, Band, \$10, or when taken together, complete, \$150 cash.) Persons in want of implements made of the best material, and put together in the strongest and best manner to answer the purpose for which they are intended, are invited to call on the subscriber. j